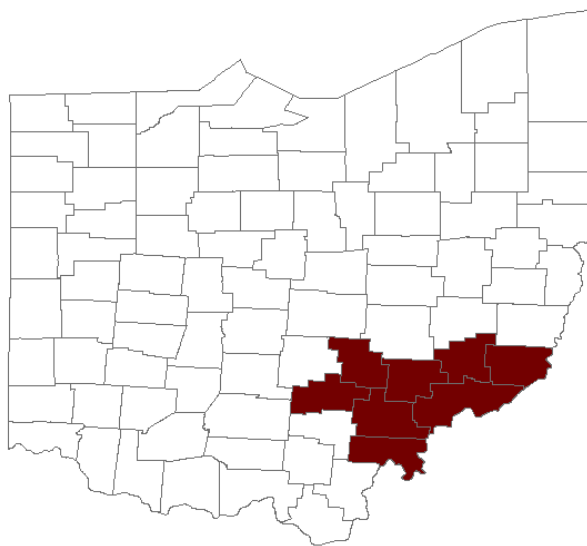




Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley
Regional Development District

2004

**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**



SERVING ATHENS, HOCKING, MEIGS, MONROE, MORGAN, NOBLE, PERRY AND
WASHINGTON COUNTIES

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

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

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President
General Policy Council - Hocking County

Honorable Mark Forni
Monroe County

Honorable Ron Moore - Vice President -
Morgan County

Honorable Charles Cowgill
Noble County

Honorable Sam Cook
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Honorable Thad Cooperrider
Perry County

Sue Mayle
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Honorable Jeff Thornton
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Nancy Aiken
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**Regional Advisory
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Ruth McElfresh

Gallia-Meigs:

Dorothy Riski

Monroe-Noble:

Vacant

Labor Council:

Vacant

Washington-Morgan:

Raymond Craig (CAC)

Athens-Hocking-Perry

Vacant (CAC)

C. Boyer Simcox
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 update and includes local input on major issues impacting communities in the region. The intent here is to describe changes in the area's economy, and update development goals, strategies, and strategy implementation, as required by EDA.

The CEDS Advisory Committee, which included primarily local economic development professionals, 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 the

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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.

2004 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.

Women, Minorities, Aged
And Disabled Joetta Lane
Director- Area Agency on Aging Region 8

Economic and Business
Development Organizations Perry Varnadoe
Meigs County Economic Development

Employment and Training
Sector John Matthews
President- Silverheels Construction

Public Leadership John Wells
Mayor, Village of McConnelsville

Community Organizations Jim Coutts
Appalachian Nutrition Network

Community Organizations J.T. Kneen
Moxahala Watershed Coordinator

Economic and Business
Development Organizations David Cater
Noble County Travel and Tourism/CIC

BH-HVRDD
Representative: Bret Allphin, GIS Specialist/Development Specialist

CHAPTER I

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

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 Region is bounded on the south and east across the Ohio River by the state of West Virginia. There are four major highways serving the area: Interstate 77, U.S. Routes 33 and 50 and Ohio Route 7. As it passes through the area, Route 50 follows the Appalachian Highway Corridor D. These highways network the area internally and connect it to the Ohio metropolitan areas of Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati.

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 govern 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

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: The Development Department and The Area Agency on Aging.

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 informs a community-based planning process.
6. Identify priority issues and set broad goals for 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.

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 '04, the staff at Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District administered the following programs:

- I. Update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to include recent changes in the district's economy, as well as discuss the status of major regional issues;
- II. Provide local communities and businesses demographic and economic data;
- III. Provided technical assistance to public entities;
- IV. Water and Sewer;
- V. CDBG Formula Allocation Program;
- VI. State Capital Improvement Program/Local Transportation Improvement Program;
- VII. Brownfield Revitalization;
- VIII. Conservation Activities;
- IX. Business Assistance Programs;
- X. Geographical Information Systems/Data Center Services;
- XI. Planning;
- XII. Community Facility Survey;
- XIII. Marketing

I. CEDS UPDATE

The 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.

Annual updates to the CEDS will include current information on the demographic and economic trends, regional issues, development strategies, and a project listing.

The basic work elements of FY'04 CEDS Update were as follows

- The staff held two planning sessions with the Advisory Committee, notes and discussions from that meeting can be found in the appendix.
- The staff compiled and analyzed recent demographic and economic information to analyze environmental changes that might affect the CEDS.
- The staff is preparing this report as of August 2004, and plans to present the report to the CEDS Advisory Committee and BH-HVRDD staff in late September.

The final CEDS report will be presented to the Economic Development Administration no later than September 30, 2004.

II. DATA CENTER SERVICES

The Data Center provides public and private entities with demographic and economic data. This data is used for preparing grant applications or media reporting.

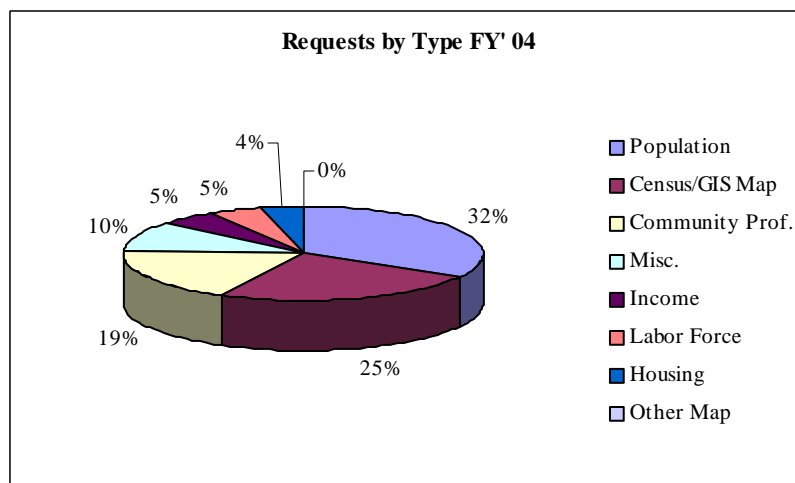
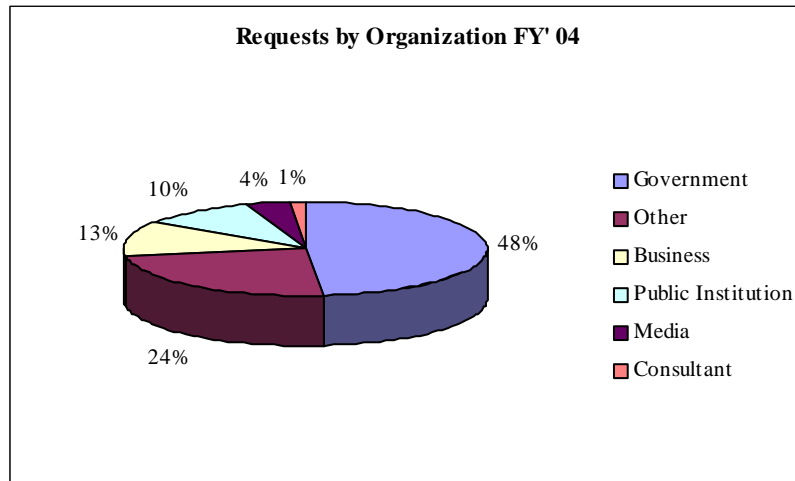
The center receives the most current data from the state data center in book and compact disk form. The software on the compact disk allows for queries and quick retrieval of data. The data center uses this vast information system to help keep the people in the region informed by:

- 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 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.

Table 2.1 is a summary of data requests for FY'04.

Table 2.1 Data Requests
Ranked by Number of Requests



The Data Center received 151 requests during the year. Services requests came from private developers, students, private consulting firms, the media, financial institutions, public service agencies and units of local government. Once again government organizations requested the most data, while consultants still requested the least. Overall, the most requested type of data is population, followed by census and/or GIS maps.

The staff of Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District continues to acquire and disseminate new data released from the 2000 census, and ensures that affected programs are updated with the census data. Communities are apprised of new and updated census information to include in their planning documents and applications for funding.

III. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

During the grant period, Development Staff provided technical assistance in the form of grant writing and administration of funds for several public entities and their projects. Some of those projects included: Washington County/ Tri County Waterline Extension, Noble County/ Coffee Ridge Waterline Extension, Noble County/ Belle Valley Water Tank Project, Morgan County/ Chesterhill Waterline Extension, and the Morgan County/ West Malta Water Project, among others.

Staff collected pre-applications for the Appalachian Regional Commission FFY'2004 and FFY'2005 Project Packages and submitted those packages to our Executive Committee for their approval. Staff worked with the applicants selected to receive FFY'2004 ARC funding to prepare full applications, and those applications were submitted to the Governor's Office of Appalachia for their review. Staff is currently awaiting the meeting between the LDD's and the GOA to determine the statewide package for submission to ARC.

Staff provided services to the District 18 Ohio Public Works Integrating Committee and collected, rated and ranked projects which were submitted for funding under Round 18 of the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvements and Local Transportation Improvements Programs. Staff also collected, rated and ranked applications for the District 18 Small Government Committee. Round 18 projects were submitted to OPWC for processing and grant agreements arrived to the communities receiving the funding around July 1, 2004.

Staff held training sessions for the District 18 Ohio Public Works Integrating Committee for Round 18 of the State Capital Improvements and Local Transportation Improvements Programs. Our staff is currently awaiting applications for Round 19 funding, which are due September 10, 2004.

The staff provided assistance to District 18 Clean Ohio- Revitalization program, which 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 area, demolish existing buildings, upgrade infrastructure and redevelop the property. The staff coordinated the activities of the various District 18 communities, which included, but was not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements and collecting applications.

Staff also provided services to the District 18 Ohio Public Works Commission Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) by collecting, rating and ranking projects submitted for funding under Round 2 of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Program. 12 projects were funded in Round 2. Round 3 has been postponed indefinitely due to budget constraints. This program has preserved over 3,000 acres of green space land in Ohio thus far.

Staff provided continuing administrative services to the Washington County Commissioners and the Morgan County Commissioners for their CDBG Formula Allocation Program. Applications were received, public hearings held and a grant

application was submitted to the Office of Housing & Community Partnerships for their review. A grant agreement has been received and the process of bidding the projects continues. In FY'03 the Buckeye Hills staff administered 6 projects in Morgan County, with a total cost of \$104,287. The Buckeye Hills staff administered 6 projects in Washington County, with a total cost of \$280,000.

IV. WATER AND SEWER

Tri-County Water Project

Buckeye Hills will continue to assist in the administration of CDBG Water and Sewer Program funds to assist the Washington County Commissioners in financing the water line extension to Adams and Watertown Townships. The project will extend water lines into Adams and Watertown Townships creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$631,640. The project involves 12.4 miles of water line and services approximately 47 homes. The service area is made up of County roads 60 and 4. This project will promote a positive community growth, which is needed to attract residents and businesses to the area.

Belle Valley Water Tank

Buckeye Hills assisted in the administration of CDBG Water and Sewer Program funds to assist the Noble County Commissioners in financing the replacement of a water storage tank. The existing 100,000-gallon concrete stave tank was in a severely dilapidated condition, and in imminent danger of failing. This tank was replaced by a 100,000-gallon glass-lined steel ground storage tank, which will serve 585 residents in Noble County. The total cost was \$140,000. Ohio Great Lakes RCAP funds were also included in the financing of this project. Construction was completed in June 2004.

Old Straitsville Water Project

Buckeye Hills assisted Hocking County in administering ARC and CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding for a project that included the reconfiguration of a water system so it could adequately service 1,093 households, 22 commercial customers, 8 industrial customers, an elementary school, and a 101 unit side housing project in Perry and Hocking Counties. This project included the installation of approximately 3,700 linear feet of water line and a booster station. The project was completed in January 2004.

Old Straitsville Water Project

Buckeye Hills is assisting Old Straitsville in applying for CDBG Water and Sewer Grant. The application for CDBG Water and Sewer was due in September 2003. The project will extend water lines onto Marietta road creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$667,000. The project involves 49,000 linear feet of water line and services approximately 54 homes. The project will promote positive community growth.

West Malta Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to approximately 200 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 \$3,184,000 with construction anticipated to begin in late 2004.

Bishopville Water Project

Buckeye Hills will 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, 1996 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 with construction slated to begin in late 2004.

Coffee Ridge Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist in the administration of CDBG Water and Sewer Program for the Noble County Commissioners. The Coffee Ridge Waterline Project will be a 4” water line from a 10” water main in Sharon which will supply this system with a capacity of 350,000 gallons of water per day as needed to supply 19 residential taps with an average daily use of 250 gallons each, and 2 commercial taps with an average daily use of 400 gallons each. This project is anticipated to begin in late 2004.

V. CDBG FORMULA ALLOCATION PROGRAM

The Development Department administered the fiscal year 2003 Community Development Block Grant Formula Allocation program for Washington and Morgan County. Each county can select up to six projects and each acquired city can select as many as three projects. These projects total more than \$384,287, with a total of \$308,000 in Formula Grant funds included. The County Commissioners review the pre-applications and prioritize the project for funding and an emphasis is given to those projects that will further strengthen rural infrastructure. Each project identifies a need within the community and meets the national objectives of servicing those individuals with low to moderate income.

The Morgan County Commissioners funded the following projects: purchase of fire equipment for the Village of Malta and McConnelsville, as well as the Township of Marion; acquisition activities for Malta and Penn Townships; the Village of Stockport made upgrades on existing water and sewer infrastructure; and public rehabilitation for Marion Township. Buckeye Hills staff assisted the Commissioners with procurement and contract management for each of the funded projects.

The Washington County Commissioners funded the following projects: The Townships of Fairfield and Decatur, as well as the City of Belpre secured park and recreational facilities projects; Wesley Township purchased fire protection equipment; and the Township of Ludlow rehabbed a public facility.

The staff have also submitted CDBG Formula applications on behalf of the Morgan and Washington County Commissioners for FY' 2004.

VI. STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The 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 State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP)/Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) 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, as the overall goal of this program is to improve public infrastructure throughout the ten-county district. The staff provided technical assistance and training to potential applicants to assist them in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP applications. The staff coordinated the activities of the various District 18 communities, which included, but was 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. The SCIP/LTIP is currently preparing for Round 19. The SCIP/LTIP is up for reauthorization in Ohio after Round 20.

VII. BROWNFIELDS REVITALIZATION

Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund

The Development Staff is the Liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission District 18, which includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties. The Clean Ohio Revitalization program is part of the Clean Ohio Fund, which provides funds to local governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit entities to enable them to acquire and clean up brownfields, demolish existing buildings, upgrade infrastructure and redevelop selected properties. The staff coordinated the activities of the various District 18 communities, which included, but was not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements and collecting applications. However, District 18 received no applications for the second round.

VIII. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

The Development Staff is the Liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission District 18, which includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties in Southeast Ohio. The Clean Ohio Conservation fund is part of the Clean Ohio Fund and provides funds for acquiring green and open space, increasing and preserving habitat, and the preservation of riparian areas of the state. The staff provided technical assistance to the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) in establishing by-laws and methodology for scoring projects. The staff also set-up meetings, distributed meeting notices, published newspaper announcements,

and coordinated the various activities of the NRAC. To date this program has preserved over 3,000 acres of green space throughout Ohio.

IX. BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Revolving Loan Fund

Buckeye Hills will provide low interest loan money to small businesses in the region using ARC, EDA, FmHA and CDBG funding. The loan funds are to act as the enhancement to existing businesses to expand and to assist new businesses wishing to locate in the region. This will lead to retention and creation of jobs within the region.

Trickle Up Grant Program

The Buckeye Hills staff received funding through the Trickle Up Program to grant fifteen \$700 grants to individuals who are very poor, and are disadvantaged but wish to help themselves out of the depths of poverty. These small grants could be used by an individual to purchase equipment, inventory, or assist them in making their product competitive on the open market. The small grants would be used for various aspects of micro business operations.

The coordinator at Buckeye Hills works with the business in creating a business strategy, a business plan, and a business report for submission to the Trickle Up Program on behalf of the business. This process teaches valuable lessons in business management to each entrepreneur. Buckeye Hills will target individuals in the region who wish to start a business and meet the poverty guidelines set by the Trickle Up Program.

In the past year, the staff met with 24 businesses and assisted them in creating business plans and compilation of grant applications to Trickle Up. All 24 businesses received grants. The staff is already working with 16 perspective clients in the district so far this year.

X. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The GIS department at Buckeye Hills has been utilizing the ArcView 9.x, 8.x, and 3.x suite of GIS mapping software by ESRI for over three years. This mapping capability has been helping meet the needs of local interests within our service district. Buckeye Hills uses this tool nearly everyday to help local leaders and individuals make decisions through the use of detailed maps and diagrams.

In October 2003 a GPS unit was purchased for use with the existing GIS resources at Buckeye Hills. This purchase came after extensive research into the technology and numerous consultations with colleagues and professionals in the field. The acquisition of this unit has greatly expanded the capabilities of the GIS department, allowing for a whole new range of projects/tasks to be completed. This unit has also aided in our continued solicitation of GIS projects. Ongoing or completed projects already utilizing the GPS technology include a large Storm Drainage Mapping Project in Belpre, Ohio, a general water appurtenance inventory in Chesterhill, Ohio, as well as a proposed detailed

waterline mapping project in Crooksville, Ohio (Perry County). The GIS department filled 37 mapping requests in FY'04, not including those maps that were a part of funding applications completed and submitted by our agency.

XI. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Washington County

To increase the effective use of planning, the staff worked with counties and communities in the region to develop comprehensive plans. The staff attended meetings with local leaders and a citizen action group in Washington County in an effort to create a land-use plan. The County Commissioners assembled a Steering Committee to work with and advise consultants in formulating a Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the county. A member of the Buckeye Hills staff was on the steering committee for the Washington County Land Use Plan; their final meeting was held in March of 2004. The plan was completed shortly thereafter.

The Buckeye Hills staff also actively pursues other comprehensive plans completed (or in the process of creation) in our district for use in our planning activities, and to stay apprised of activities throughout the area. The staff has received comprehensive watershed plans/reports, land use reports, local comprehensive plans, and other documents created by bodies such as CIC's or interstate transportation planning commissions.

XII. COMMUNITY FACILITY SURVEY

The Development staff, in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging at Buckeye Hills, continue to work on the Community Facility Survey, a document that will show what facilities and services exist in the region.

This project is ongoing. Information from the previous survey has been updated with the latest in demographic information available, and additional local information is still being added. This revision of the Community Facility Survey focused on getting updated information concerning fire protection services, public water, and public sewer services throughout the district. Medical information collected by the Area Agency on Aging within the past 2 years was added in to the document as well.

XIII. MARKETING

Buckeye Hills continued to market the region by utilizing www.seovirtual.com to promote available industrial buildings and sites. Each county in the district has a user ID and password to access the site and update their county information at any time. They utilize this service to update their available vacant buildings and land. Buckeye Hills also created a marketing product, with the help of Access America, which is being used as promotional material to give to businesses wishing to locate in the region. General information about Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, as well as information about our district, our programs, and our staff can also be found at www.buckeyehills.org. There you will also find documents created by the staff, as well

as forms necessary for participation in some of the funding programs offered and administered by Buckeye Hills.

Chapter III **Regional Demographics**

CONSTITUENCY **Population Profile**

Table 3.01 Population Change, 1980-2000					
Geographic Area	Census			Percentage Change	
	1980	1990	2000	1980-1990	1990-2000
Ohio	10,797,604	10,847,115	11,353,140	0.5	3.8
Region	242,575	242,907	255,000	0.1	5
Athens	56,399	59,549	62,223	5.6	4.5
Hocking	24,304	25,533	28,241	5.1	10.6
Meigs	23,641	22,987	23,072	-2.8	0.4
Monroe	17,382	15,497	15,180	-10.8	-2
Morgan	14,241	14,194	14,897	-0.3	5
Nobel	11,310	11,336	14,058	0.2	24
Perry	31,032	31,557	34,078	1.7	8
Washington	64,266	62,254	63,251	-3.1	1.6

Table 3.02 - Projected Population Changes to 2030, by County								
COUNTY	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	% Change
Ohio	11,353,140	11,501,181	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	269,207	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	16,227	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%

The Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District Region is projected to have an overall population increase of nearly 6,000 people by the year 2015, a 6.9% increase. The greatest gains are projected in Noble and Hocking Counties, with the biggest losses in Monroe and Washington Counties.

Area	0-14	%	15-24	%	25-64	%	65+	%
BHHVRDD	48294	19.5%	46737	15.9%	126990	51.1%	32979	13.6%
Athens	9288	14.9%	21372	34.3%	25794	41.5%	5769	9.3%
Hocking	5906	20.9%	3615	12.8%	15032	53.2%	3688	13.1%
Meigs	4487	19.4%	2983	12.9%	12198	52.9%	3404	14.8%
Monroe	2882	19.0%	1754	11.6%	8080	53.2%	2464	16.2%
Morgan	3065	20.6%	1898	12.7%	7650	51.4%	2284	15.3%
Noble	2588	18.4%	2260	16.1%	7374	52.5%	1836	13.1%
Perry	7954	23.3%	4498	13.2%	17533	51.4%	4093	12.0%
Washington	12124	19.2%	8357	13.2%	33329	52.7%	9441	14.9%

	Aboriginal			Native			Bi & Multi		Total	
	White	Black	American	Asian	Hawaiian	& Oth. Pac. Isl.	Hispanic	Racial		Other
Ohio	85.00%	11.50%	0.20%	1.20%		0.00%	1.90%	1.40%	0.80%	16.00%
BHHVRDD	96.18%	1.94%	0.28%	0.36%		0.00%	0.58%	1.09%	0.16%	4.19%
Athens	93.50%	2.40%	0.30%	1.90%		0.00%	1.00%	1.60%	0.40%	7.20%
Hocking	97.50%	0.90%	0.30%	0.10%		0.00%	0.40%	1.10%	0.10%	2.80%
Meigs	97.70%	0.70%	0.30%	0.10%		0.00%	0.60%	1.00%	0.20%	2.60%
Monroe	98.70%	0.30%	0.20%	0.10%		0.00%	0.40%	0.70%	0.10%	1.60%
Morgan	93.70%	3.40%	0.30%	0.10%		0.00%	0.40%	2.20%	0.30%	6.60%
Noble	92.50%	6.70%	0.30%	0.10%		0.00%	0.90%	0.40%	0.00%	7.80%
Perry	98.50%	0.20%	0.30%	0.10%		0.00%	0.40%	0.80%	0.10%	1.80%
Washington	97.30%	0.90%	0.20%	0.40%		0.00%	0.50%	0.90%	0.10%	3.10%

PERFORMANCE MEASURES
People

	Total Births (2002)	Rate (1,000)	Teen Birth (2002)	Rate (1,000)	Deaths (2002)	Rate (1,000)	Marriages (2002)	Rate (1,000)	Divorces (2002)	Rate (1,000)
Ohio	151,410	13.3	17,294	42.5	107,560	9.5	86,153	7.7	47,563	4.2
BHHVRDD	2,929	11.46	415	43.49	2,477	10.06	1,834	7.16	1,078	4.23
Athens	640	10.3	92	20.4	476	7.6	407	6.6	202	3.3
Hocking	377	13.3	68	66.9	308	10.9	209	7.2	134	4.6
Meigs	294	12.7	40	48.4	263	11.4	177	7.4	107	4.5
Monroe	163	10.7	20	38.8	191	12.6	141	9.1	56	3.6
Morgan	172	11.5	31	57.3	170	11.4	100	6.9	77	5.3
Noble	112	8	11	23.6	110	7.8	77	5.2	50	3.4
Perry	491	14.4	69	54.9	273	8	256	7.5	149	4.3
Washington	680	10.8	84	37.6	686	10.8	467	7.4	303	4.8

The table above shows personal statistics for the constituents of the region. The Buckeye Hills region had a birth rate of 11.46 in 2002, behind the state figure of 13.3. However the region's teen birth rate of 43.49 was slightly higher than the state's. Our region also surpasses the state rates of deaths and divorces. Perry County led the way with the highest birth rate (14.4); Hocking County had the highest teen birth rate (66.9). Monroe County came in with the highest death rate (12.6) as well as the highest marriage rate (9.1).

Area	89--90	90--91	91--92	92--93	93--94	94--95	95--96	96--97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	Net
BHHVRDD	-347	370	950	1,462	765	1,038	915	71	-229	-320	39	-138	122	4,534
Athens	-207	196	-76	212	-129	6	65	-44	-1	-163	211	-136	61	172
Hocking	157	175	361	352	245	363	240	122	110	153	23	191	164	2,541
Meigs	47	90	131	257	250	314	77	20	-15	54	-96	-13	91	1,180
Monroe	-31	-104	-55	-128	-52	24	7	-1	71	62	0	28	-78	-299
Morgan	-45	-23	91	62	81	95	-19	-29	6	-28	44	34	-26	221
Noble	-41	188	23	101	23	141	122	155	23	38	73	-48	15	795
Perry	9	12	244	282	196	134	441	103	-99	-99	35	55	29	1,291
Washington	-236	-164	231	324	151	-39	-18	-255	-324	-337	-251	-249	-134	-1367

Table 3.06 shows the net migration of each county from 1988 to 2001. This migration (or lack there of) can be caused by many factors, in most cases these numbers are influenced by orientation to a local job markets. (I.E. people commuting in or out of a county to find work.) The largest net gain was seen in Hocking County (2,541), while Washington County suffered the biggest loss (-1,367).

Employment

Area	In-Commuters	Out-Commuters	Commuting Balance Net Flow
BH-HVRDD	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 shows us that seven of 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.

Income

Table 3.08 Income- BEA Personal Per Capita Income: 1995--2002 (in current dollars)

Area	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
United States	\$23,255	\$24,270	\$25,412	\$26,893	\$27,843	\$29,469	\$30,413	\$30,906
Ohio	\$22,790	\$23,496	\$24,772	\$25,921	\$26,753	\$27,977	\$28,699	\$29,195
BHHVRDD	\$15,449	\$16,032	\$16,843	\$17,403	\$17,800	\$18,684	\$19,108	\$20,406
Athens	\$14,958	\$15,853	\$17,298	\$17,806	\$17,838	\$18,660	\$19,805	\$19,885
Hocking	\$16,695	\$17,310	\$18,428	\$18,922	\$19,588	\$20,799	\$21,081	\$21,376
Meigs	\$14,002	\$14,629	\$15,555	\$16,407	\$16,758	\$17,575	\$18,405	\$19,760
Monroe	\$15,514	\$15,880	\$16,691	\$17,448	\$17,889	\$18,904	\$19,162	\$20,615
Morgan	\$15,572	\$16,106	\$17,071	\$17,612	\$17,713	\$18,320	\$18,944	\$20,052
Noble	\$13,673	\$14,601	\$13,699	\$13,916	\$14,513	\$15,308	\$15,403	\$17,055
Perry	\$14,515	\$14,546	\$15,353	\$15,855	\$16,242	\$17,096	\$16,899	\$19,277
Washington	\$18,662	\$19,328	\$20,651	\$21,255	\$21,861	\$22,810	\$23,165	\$25,230

Personal Per Capita Income 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.

Table 3.09 - Percentage of Persons Below Poverty Level, 1980-2000

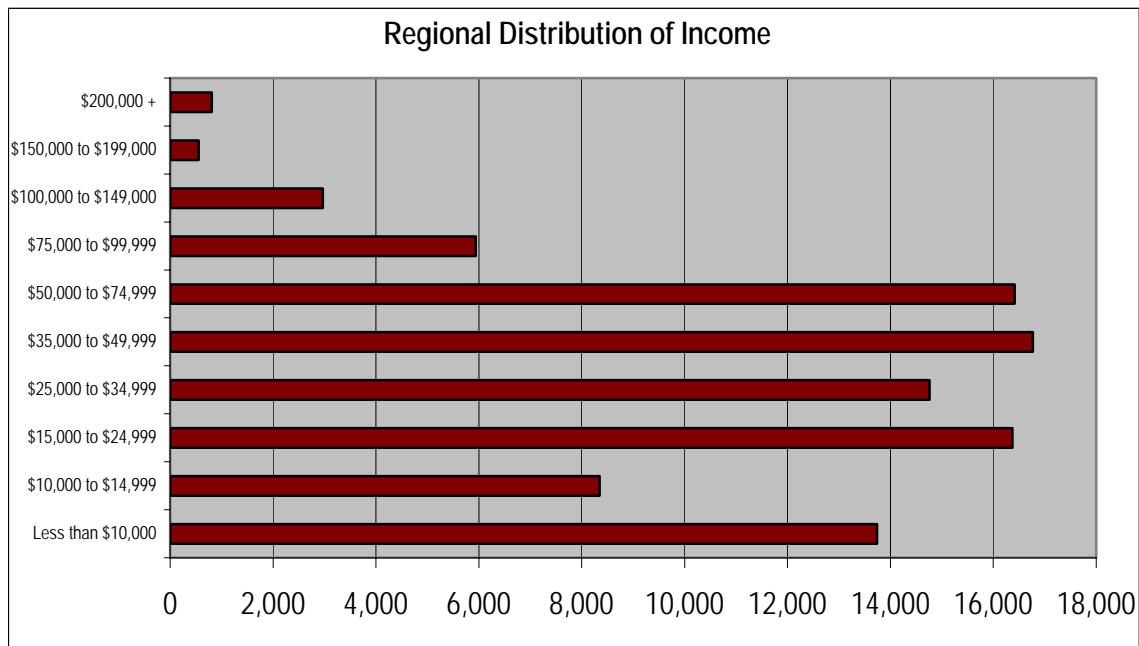
Area	Years			Percentage Change		
	1980	1990	2000	1980-1990	1990-2000	1980-2000
Ohio	11.1	13.6	10.6	2.5	-3	-0.5
BHHVRDD	13.7	19.3	16.0	5.6	-3.4	2.3
Athens	21.6	28.7	27.4	7.1	-1.3	5.8
Hocking	12.4	15.7	13.5	3.3	-2.2	1.1
Meigs	17.1	27	19.8	9.9	-7.2	2.7
Monroe	13.5	21.5	13.9	8	-7.6	0.4
Morgan	14.8	21.2	18.4	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 state average. The rate of change has also been higher than the state rate as well. Table 3.09 shows some of these historical levels, as well as the changes in percentages over the last 20 years.

Area	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

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

Table 3.11 gives us a numerical representation of the income levels found in the Buckeye Hills region according to the 2000 Census; below is a graph that represents the same data.



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 housing units in the region, as well as the total occupied housing units. The total occupied housing units includes both rental and owner occupied units.

	Number of renter occupied units	Median rent	Less than 15%	Rent as Percentage				More than 35%
				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

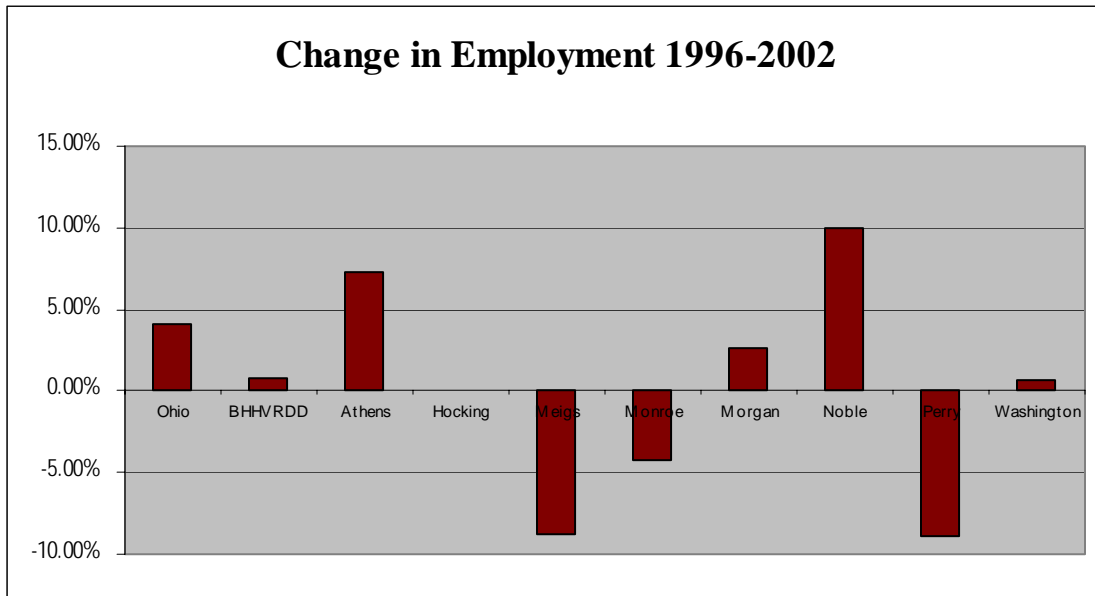
Table 3.13 shows us what the situation in the region is like for those who do not own their place of residence. Median rent in the region was \$386, up \$93 since 1990. Athens had the highest median rent (\$469), while Morgan County had the lowest (\$347).

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Jobs

Table 3.14 - Total Full and Part Time Employment: 1996--2002									
Area	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Changes: 96-02	
Ohio	6,474,648	6,596,769	6,688,352	6,789,794	6,877,576	6,754,403	6,703,991	266,799	4.10%
BHHVRDD	105,894	107,470	107,036	106,759	106,622	105,810	106,725	831	0.78%
Athens	26,774	27,008	27,548	27,721	27,910	28,377	28,736	1,962	7.30%
Hocking	10,028	10,225	10,066	9,975	9,754	9,795	10,023	-5	0.00%
Meigs	7,759	7,878	7,789	7,758	7,796	7,583	7,076	-683	-8.80%
Monroe	7,450	7,639	7,742	7,525	7,392	7,128	7,127	-323	-4.30%
Morgan	5,688	5,791	6,215	6,002	5,934	5,875	5,836	148	2.60%
Noble	4,519	4,973	4,814	4,908	5,039	4,985	4,970	451	10.00%
Perry	10,709	10,659	10,051	10,048	10,115	9,629	9,752	-957	-8.90%
Washington	32,967	33,297	32,811	32,822	32,682	32,438	33,205	238	0.70%

Table 3.14 shows the changes in full and part time employment between 1996 and 2002. During that time the state has increased full and part time employment by 4.1%, while the Buckeye Hills region as a whole has only increased .78%.



County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Athens	Super 8 Motel	Athens	Hotel		\$1,000,000	26,000
Athens	TS Trim	Athens	Auto Stampings	15	\$6,000,000	53,000
Hocking	Rocky Shoes & Boots	Green Twp	Footwear	45	\$6,400,000	190,000
Washington	Amoco	Warren Twp	Plastic resins	4	\$5,200,000	
Washington	Broughton Foods Co	Marietta	Dairy products	130	\$16,100,000	70,000
Washington	Degussa Corp	Belpre Twp	Carbon Black	7	\$7,000,000	
Washington	Lee Middletown Doll	Belpre	Collectibles	95	\$2,800,000	56,000
Washington	Settlers Bank	Marietta	Bank		\$1,200,000	12,000
Washington	Wetz Investments	Belpre	Speculative distbtn			30,000
Washington	Wetz Investments	Belpre	Speculative distbtn			54,000

County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Athens	DEPS	Nelsonville	Data Entry	100		
Athens	Holiday Inn	Athens	Hotel		\$10,000,000	
Athens	Sunpower Inc.	Athens	Cryocooler	31	\$1,300,000	
Hocking	Norse Dairy Systems	Logan	Sandwich Wafers	66	\$5,800,000	40,000
Noble	Greif Brothers	Olive Twp	Steel Drums	25	\$6,000,000	30,000
Washington	Alliance Industries	Marietta	Sewage Treatment	40	\$2,000,000	45,000
Washington	Eclipse Blind Systems	Warren Twp	Vertical Blind	31	\$1,200,000	
Washington	Hampton Inn	Marietta	Hotel		\$2,000,000	

In 1999 the greatest concentration of private investment occurred in Washington and Athens Counties. In the case of Washington County, transportation access, both to the interstate highway system and to the Ohio River may have played a part in the location of these businesses. In the case of Athens County, Ohio University and the people surrounding it may have played a part in the location of these businesses. These industries do not seem to have any direct relationship to one another.

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.

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	Sunsbury Twp	Coal	500		
Monroe	Monroe County CIC	Woodsfield	Spec bldg		\$1,200,000	23,000
Perry	Petoware	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 saw private investment pick up once again with 8 expansions/ attractions between them. There were two large attractions to note, Central Mine in Monroe County with 500 jobs, and Interactive Teleservices in Washington County with 300.

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	

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	

Area	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Ohio	1049	1,075	1,090	809	633	599
BHHVRDD	10	7	10	13	7	5
Athens	2	2	0	2	1	0
Hocking	1	1	0	2	1	0
Meigs	0	0	1	0	0	1
Monroe	0	0	3	2	0	1
Morgan	0	0	2	0	2	0
Noble	0	1	0	0	0	1
Perry	0	0	1	1	0	0
Washington	7	3	3	6	3	2

The site selection totals show that this region of Ohio has a disproportionately small number of new businesses locating here. The percentage the region makes up in business location is statistically insignificant. Of the 6 years listed above, only twice did the region make up for more than 1% of the total for the state.

Area	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Avg.
Ohio	\$4,583,274	\$4,604,207	\$4,367,913	\$4,507,562	\$4,867,174	\$5,123,873	\$5,243,370	\$4,756,768
BHHVRDD	\$20,323	\$14,119	\$16,320	\$2,388	\$1,819	\$4,074	\$26,381	\$2,561
Athens	\$4,875	\$3,927	\$4,981	\$6,839	\$5,666	\$19,829	\$13,633	\$8,536
Hocking	\$944	\$898	\$806	\$944	\$782	\$909	\$1,114	\$914
Meigs	\$1,365	\$1,160	\$1,791	\$1,063	\$818	\$1,321	\$1,534	\$1,293
Monroe	\$720	\$1,334	\$1,048	\$3,193	\$906	\$959	\$1,389	\$1,364
Morgan	\$992	\$849	\$1,477	\$1,193	\$530	\$1,167	\$899	\$1,015
Noble	\$4,958	\$992	\$553	\$982	\$513	\$519	\$583	\$1,300
Perry	\$829	\$1,249	\$1,336	\$1,230	\$1,326	\$1,185	\$1,254	\$1,201
Washington	\$5,641	\$3,710	\$4,327	\$3,663	\$4,008	\$6,701	\$5,975	\$4,861

Table 3.22 shows us information about Procurement Awards from 1996 to 2002. The two most populous counties, Athens and Washington, consistently lead the region in Procurement Awards over this time span. Hocking and Morgan Counties constituted the lowest amounts in the region.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Ohio 2003
Civilian Labor Force	109,400	111,200	111,400	110,500	110,300	110,300	109,700	110,400	112,800	5,915,000
Employment	101,100	102,600	103,600	103,300	102,200	102,700	103,600	103,300	104,100	5,552,000
Unemployment	8,300	8,500	7,700	7,400	8,100	7,400	6,100	7,100	8,700	363,000
Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.3	7.4	7.2	8.7	8.2	7.1	8.1	9.8	6.1

Table 3.23 shows data on the labor force of the region. The unemployment rate has been fairly steady over the past 8 years, yet that steady level is considerably higher than the state averages over the same time period. Growth in the civilian labor force has been minimal in the region,

with only a 3,000 person increase from 1995-2003. The number of unemployed individuals has been varying through this time period, with the most current number reflecting 400 more unemployed people than were recorded in 1995.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	70,812	71,812	73,492	73,690	72,983	72,772	72,486
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	529	476
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	922	634
Construction	3,595	3,436	3,864	3,936	3,908	3,811	3,807
Manufacturing	14,147	14,189	14,536	14,614	14,152	13,861	12,537
Transportation & Utilities	2,885	2,612	2,612	2,533	2,257	2,249	1,704
Wholesale & Retail	16,225	16,533	16,573	16,473	16,648	16,783	10,936
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	2,265	2,286	2,353	2,325	2,330	2,377	2,555
Service	12,961	13,160	13,434	13,521	13,341	13,902	1,958
Government	16,508	16,772	17,184	17,364	17,501	17,142	18,159

Every sector of employment, with the exception of manufacturing and transportation/utilities, has shown growth over the five year time period. The largest growth was seen in the industries of wholesale & retail trade.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$440.70	\$462.75	\$482.68	\$497.15	\$500.90	\$505.89
Agriculture*	na	na	na	na	na	na
Mining*	na	na	na	na	na	na
Construction	\$496.63	\$508.00	\$486.88	\$517.00	\$532.14	\$532.38
Manufacturing	\$545.90	\$577.28	\$592.76	\$605.09	\$618.24	\$630.34
Transportation & Utilities	\$548.85	\$554.71	\$572.34	\$601.26	\$639.86	\$632.06
Wholesale & Retail	\$253.10	\$256.30	\$263.60	\$276.22	\$278.51	\$281.68
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$371.96	\$386.14	\$363.36	\$421.13	\$434.26	\$453.11
Service	\$287.39	\$292.50	\$311.15	\$325.59	\$331.84	\$342.88
Government	\$419.35	\$441.20	\$472.36	\$482.35	\$490.18	\$510.90

Table 3.25 shows the average weekly wages for recorded industries of employment. This table shows the industries that have experienced the largest increases over the five year period. The transportation and utilities sector paid the most (\$632.06), and the service sector paid the least (\$342.88).

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Business Starts	594	595	539	517	559	561	600	493	551
Business Terminations	530	452	631	535	na*	550	512	na	na
Net Change	64	143	-92	-18	na*	11	88	na	na
Total Active Businesses	4,891	4,995	4,836	4,624	4,727	4,843	4,853	4,970	4,982

Table 3.26 illustrates the business environment in the Buckeye Hills region from 1995-2003. The number of new business starts is slightly down from an 8 year high in 2001. The number of active businesses has varied during this time, but has settled at a level just higher than that of 1995.

Athens County Economics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Ohio 2003
Civilian Labor Force	26,200	26,600	26,500	26,700	27,300	28,300	28,500	29,600	5,915,000
Employment	24,700	25,200	25,300	25,400	26,000	27,200	27,200	28,200	5,552,000
Unemployment	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,100	1,300	1,400	363,000
Unemployment Rate	5.8	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.7	3.8	4.6	4.8	6.1

Table 3.27 examines the civilian labor force in Athens County. The employment levels have been slowly increasing since 1995, with a total increase of 3,500. Athens County has seen a 100 person decrease in unemployment over this time. This is one of the only counties in the region that has an unemployment level that continues to be competitive with the state average.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	17,498	17,928	18,313	18,455	18,432	18,423	18,781
Agriculture	56	62	67	78	96	128	51
Mining	14	16	14	13	27	24	na
Construction	474	471	572	598	571	607	495
Manufacturing	826	919	972	985	971	1,160	987
Transportation & Utilities	601	607	594	522	369	358	253
Wholesale & Retail	4,647	4,685	4,745	4,720	4,763	4,734	2,886
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	622	609	641	634	645	669	708
Service	3,373	3,544	3,637	3,627	3,667	3,908	469
Government	7,065	7,016	7,072	7,279	7,325	6,835	7,218

The employment picture of Athens County is dominated by the trade and government industries. The large government presence is to be expected with a large public university in the county. Manufacturing also makes up a large portion of the employment sector. On a positive note, over the five-year period the manufacturing sector has been slowly growing, despite the fact it lost some ground in the past year.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$419.12	\$450.68	\$469.19	\$483.47	\$492.90	\$517.04
Agriculture	\$263.01	\$224.19	\$244.31	\$310.17	\$330.33	\$325.24
Mining	na	\$437.92	\$367.52	\$408.28	\$428.88	\$493.59
Construction	\$403.34	\$435.23	\$459.22	\$418.79	\$438.90	\$421.46
Manufacturing	\$411.82	\$411.70	\$411.75	\$418.02	\$425.42	\$468.53
Transportation & Utilities	\$583.45	\$598.43	\$621.92	\$640.17	\$758.17	\$739.87
Wholesale & Retail	\$230.50	\$230.55	\$247.79	\$259.60	\$261.71	\$269.69
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$382.90	\$388.66	\$411.97	\$452.23	\$465.50	\$485.62
Service	\$362.82	\$374.35	\$392.45	\$412.04	\$419.76	\$420.79
Government	\$565.29	\$636.96	\$660.59	\$671.88	\$684.39	\$755.19

Table 3.29 depicts the average weekly wages from 1995 through 2000. The government sector in 2000 was paying the highest weekly wage (\$755.19). The lowest wages in the county were found in the wholesale & retail sector.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Business Starts	133	129	119	125	144	132	157	107	121
Business Terminations	128	93	121	105	na*	139	129	na	na
Net Change	5	36	-2	20	na*	-7	28	na	na
Total Active Businesses	983	1,005	997	985	1,048	1,064	1,069	1,081	1,090

Over the eight-year period from 1995-2003, Athens County sustained a high level of business starts, topping out at 157 in 2001. The net change of business has varied over the past 7 years from a low of -7 to a high of 36 in 1996. The number of total active businesses has been increasing since 1998.

Hocking County Economics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Ohio 2003
Civilian Labor Force	12,600	12,500	12,300	12,000	11,800	11,800	12,000	12,200	5,915,000
Employment	11,700	11,700	11,500	11,100	10,800	11,100	11,200	11,200	5,552,000
Unemployment	900	800	700	900	1000	800	800	1000	363,000
Unemployment Rate	7	6	6	7.2	8.7	6.4	6.4	8	6.1

The unemployment rate in Hocking County over this eight-year period has been varied, reaching a high of 8.7% in 2000. In 2003 the unemployment rate increased by 1.6%, the largest increase since 1999-2000. The individual employment and unemployment numbers in Hocking County have seen minor fluctuations in the time span, but have stayed generally stable.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	6,726	7,107	7,170	7,143	7,009	6,691	6,700
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	22	21
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	91	na
Construction	306	359	398	365	386	370	366
Manufacturing	2,089	2,194	2,253	2,199	2,059	1,700	1,452
Transportation & Utilities	180	171	183	172	169	191	97
Wholesale & Retail	1,422	1,428	1,319	1,328	1,385	1,457	1,037
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	160	160	175	175	164	174	235
Service	953	1,092	1,154	1,203	1,131	1,070	209
Government	1,539	1,579	1,555	1,557	1,581	1,600	1,669

Table 3.32 shows an increase in the number of overall jobs in Hocking County. Nearly all sectors saw marginal changes in employment levels. The manufacturing sector in Hocking County continues to shrink.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$411.83	\$423.56	\$456.96	\$464.68	\$467.33	\$461.60
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	\$277.28
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	\$583.09
Construction	\$380.46	\$424.78	\$499.78	\$499.74	\$466.32	\$476.11
Manufacturing	\$541.16	\$569.82	\$600.90	\$603.14	\$612.36	\$579.32
Transportation & Utilities	\$398.42	\$389.92	\$488.91	\$464.67	\$432.44	\$462.24
Wholesale & Retail	\$253.53	\$255.62	\$271.91	\$293.63	\$290.41	\$302.09
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$377.83	\$384.30	\$391.12	\$433.66	\$457.19	\$471.17
Service	\$269.21	\$268.68	\$298.51	\$299.86	\$317.47	\$334.69
Government	\$476.34	\$482.26	\$512.88	\$534.99	\$535.62	\$557.47

The above table looks at the average weekly wages from 1995-2000. All industries have increased their weekly wages over the five-year time period. The greatest increases were in construction and finance. The manufacturing sector experienced the smallest growth.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Business Starts	70	90	88	61	79	93	83	60	87
Business Terminations	52	64	88	56	na*	79	78	na	na
Net Change	18	26	0	5	na*	14	5	na	na
Total Active Businesses	498	549	531	443	463	516	504	527	528

Hocking County has seen no consistent pattern of sustained success or failure in the business environment from 1995-2003. Over this time, business starts are up, terminations are up, net change is down, yet total active businesses are slightly up.

Meigs County Economics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Ohio 2003
Civilian Labor Force	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,500	8,400	8,000	7,400	7,100	5,915,000
Employment	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,500	7,500	7,300	6,600	6,000	5,552,000
Unemployment	900	900	900	1000	900	700	800	1100	363,000
Unemployment Rate	11	10.3	10.5	11.5	10.5	8.7	11.3	15.7	6.1

Table 3.35 shows the civilian labor force for Meigs County. The overall civilian labor force maintained a steady level until 2001 and 2002. Since 2001 the number of employed people has dropped by 1,300. The overall unemployment level in individuals was fairly steady, as well as the unemployment rate, until 2003. In 2003 the unemployment rate went up 4.4% from the previous year, bringing the total to 15.7%. Except for 2001, the unemployment level was consistently over 10%, nearly double the state average.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	4,750	4,811	4,948	5,000	4,865	4,855	4,766
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	na	207
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Construction	276	288	329	312	294	311	408
Manufacturing	181	199	186	171	142	149	130
Transportation & Utilities	71	66	69	80	76	83	40
Wholesale & Retail	1,075	1,105	1,109	1,122	1,113	1,146	728
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	146	157	160	174	164	169	175
Service	885	838	846	826	835	783	78
Government	1,087	1,107	1,134	1,126	1,144	1,150	1,205

The two leading sectors of employment in the county are wholesale & retail trade and government. Over the five-year period, the Government sector has seen a steady rise in employment.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$420.44	\$448.24	\$468.64	\$498.28	\$510.63	\$515.61
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	na
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	na
Construction	\$433.47	\$451.64	\$497.78	\$516.55	\$495.52	\$523.54
Manufacturing	\$416.47	\$451.96	\$456.77	\$505.98	\$544.02	\$550.87
Transportation & Utilities	\$583.56	\$579.47	\$580.29	\$539.66	\$581.08	\$554.50
Wholesale & Retail	\$228.49	\$250.01	\$260.86	\$270.63	\$278.81	\$280.75
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$375.91	\$383.61	\$393.87	\$403.98	\$426.02	\$440.42
Service	\$300.53	\$306.65	\$285.54	\$296.42	\$301.33	\$300.38
Government	\$357.41	\$365.00	\$370.63	\$392.46	\$387.89	\$389.20

Table 3.37 illustrates the average weekly wages for Meigs County. All sectors have been slowly increasing their weekly wages with the exception of transportation & utilities and service. (Service loss was marginal at fifteen cents total.)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Business Starts	46	54	41	42	61	33	45	37	36
Business Terminations	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	379	379	370	356	354	358	363	378	363

After an eight year high in business starts in 1999, Meigs County continues to have steady business starts and total active business figures. 2003, however, saw an overall lower level of business starts and active businesses compared to 1995.

Monroe County Economics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Ohio 2003
Civilian Labor Force	6,100	6,100	6,000	5,900	5,800	5,300	5,300	5,400	5,915,000
Employment	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,300	5,200	4,900	4,800	4,900	5,552,000
Unemployment	700	600	500	600	500	300	400	500	363,000
Unemployment Rate	11	9.8	8.8	9.5	9.4	6.6	8.1	8.8	6.1

Table 3.38 shows the civilian labor force for Monroe County from 1996-2003. The labor force stayed at a constant level until 1998, when it began falling at a steady rate. There was a 700 individual difference in the 8 year span. During that time the employment level fell 500, the unemployment fell 200, and the unemployment rate fell 2.2%. Unfortunately the unemployment rate in Monroe County was still higher than the state rate throughout the time period.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	5,027	5,011	5,058	5,159	4,956	4,792	4,449
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	14	25
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	71	38
Construction	173	162	170	173	200	187	170
Manufacturing	2,459	2,325	2,342	2,450	2,348	2,310	2,048
Transportation & Utilities	102	103	109	104	111	134	90
Wholesale & Retail	646	663	638	701	668	643	438
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	133	156	156	133	122	121	131
Service	336	332	350	373	385	437	128
Government	874	881	892	888	891	875	941

The employment scene in Monroe County has seen gradual declines in overall employment over the past seven years, with the biggest losses coming in the manufacturing sector.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$548.83	\$586.73	\$576.38	\$563.52	\$558.99	\$540.12
Agriculture	na	na	na	na	na	\$284.75
Mining	na	na	na	na	na	\$320.20
Construction	\$394.90	\$399.48	\$471.49	\$437.12	\$461.54	\$529.82
Manufacturing	\$711.74	\$784.78	\$744.01	\$741.26	\$773.33	\$739.12
Transportation & Utilities	\$379.46	\$401.77	\$443.90	\$476.74	\$494.90	\$486.46
Wholesale & Retail	\$231.95	\$233.57	\$254.65	\$236.03	\$254.42	\$266.42
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$314.52	\$343.84	\$358.89	\$346.51	\$344.19	\$365.07
Service	\$184.22	\$201.10	\$212.07	\$215.13	\$228.07	\$245.26
Government	\$394.45	\$393.24	\$402.70	\$408.56	\$418.80	\$419.62

Although the overall average for all weekly wages decreased, every sector showed growth in wages from 1995-2000.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Business Starts	23	32	27	27	26	28	33	34	30
Business Terminations	25	34	52	30	na*	26	28	na	na
Net Change	-2	-2	-25	-3	na*	2	5	na	na
Total Active Businesses	423	417	391	366	368	368	369	380	379

Much like we have seen in the previous Monroe County tables, table 3.41 illustrates a fairly stable business environment between 1995 and 2003. There has been a steady growth in the number of business starts, yet the number of total active businesses has been slowly increasing since 1998.

Morgan County Economics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Ohio 2003
Civilian Labor Force	4,900	4,900	5,000	4,700	4,500	4,500	4,300	4,300	5,915,000
Employment	4,200	4,300	4,400	4,000	3,900	3,800	3,700	3,600	5,552,000
Unemployment	700	600	700	700	600	700	600	700	363,000
Unemployment Rate	14.7	12.4	13.1	14.3	12.4	14.7	14.3	16.4	6.1

Table 3.42 shows us data for the Morgan County civilian labor force. The most striking statistic in this selection is the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate for any given year in this period has been nearly three times the state rate. Morgan County regularly has the highest unemployment rate in the state in monthly and annual comparisons.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	3,798	3,648	3,779	3,765	3,543	3,444	3,334
Agriculture	15	17	16	na	na	22	12
Mining	245	282	288	na	na	221	na
Construction	217	225	249	311	265	239	261
Manufacturing	1,007	940	1,002	932	788	734	600
Transportation & Utilities	449	419	416	398	358	350	313
Wholesale & Retail	616	619	625	655	659	657	444
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	83	87	90	90	91	104	113
Service	428	415	434	427	381	383	53
Government	660	645	660	644	694	700	746

Morgan County continues to endure a difficult time retaining and sustaining employment in the county. The table above shows five sectors lost employees from 1995-2001. The biggest loss was in Manufacturing (-407).

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$483.31	\$513.53	\$523.83	\$553.92	\$549.53	\$556.94
Agriculture	\$219.37	\$232.32	\$257.63	na	na	\$343.47
Mining	na	\$891.57	\$968.15	na	na	\$1,151.93
Construction	\$654.37	\$652.38	\$662.82	\$737.89	\$748.60	\$609.12
Manufacturing	\$513.62	\$558.51	\$562.36	\$583.74	\$596.23	\$664.41
Transportation & Utilities	\$834.21	\$928.09	\$924.14	\$976.36	\$1,072.03	\$1,060.51
Wholesale & Retail	\$226.44	\$229.36	\$228.77	\$238.17	\$232.43	\$253.48
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$317.63	\$330.80	\$358.33	\$363.73	\$345.94	\$380.00
Service	\$263.77	\$227.07	\$290.58	\$280.37	\$276.65	\$299.11
Government	\$392.64	\$421.08	\$428.18	\$442.61	\$436.79	\$457.67

All sectors except construction in Morgan County increased their average weekly wages from 1995-2000. Transportation & Utilities were the largest increasing sector, up \$226.30.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Business Starts	28	32	27	18	25	35	27	23	46
Business Terminations	28	28	39	27	na*	29	28	na	na
Net Change	0	4	-12	-9	na*	6	-1	na	na
Total Active Businesses	276	282	272	253	257	261	253	260	277

Morgan County saw some positive activity in their county in 2003, as the number of business starts doubled from 23 in 2002 to 46 in 2003. The total number of active businesses also increased from 2002.

Noble County Economics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Ohio 2003
Civilian Labor Force	5,200	5,400	5,400	5,600	5,600	5,300	5,500	5,800	5,915,000
Employment	4,800	5,000	5,000	5,100	5,200	5,000	5,200	5,300	5,552,000
Unemployment	400	400	400	500	400	300	400	500	500
Unemployment Rate	7.5	6.8	7.6	8.2	7.5	5.8	6.9	8.9	8.9

Table 3.47 shows us the civilian labor force situation in Noble County. Noble County has experienced a slow increase in employment levels, as well slight increases in unemployment. The unemployment level has increased 1.4% since 1996.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	2,526	2,766	3,142	3,180	3,293	3,402	3,391
Agriculture	na	na	na	7	na	na	12
Mining	na	na	na	119	na	na	89
Construction	65	58	57	64	59	66	75
Manufacturing	544	551	570	565	594	624	676
Transportation & Utilities	111	119	140	134	109	116	107
Wholesale & Retail	562	599	646	606	666	707	427
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	96	97	97	100	112	87	71
Service	453	454	488	533	588	603	83
Government	594	772	1016	1048	1,049	1,115	1,135

Noble County had seen a steady increase in overall employment in all industries, before seeing a slight decline in 2001. Noble County has seen the number of individuals employed in the government sector more than double since 1995.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$389.44	\$408.96	\$441.03	\$461.12	\$470.57	\$472.60
Agriculture	na	na	na	\$232.56	na	na
Mining	na	na	na	\$740.67	na	na
Construction	\$352.64	\$398.08	\$340.76	\$360.99	\$392.50	\$379.94
Manufacturing	\$620.57	\$641.29	\$671.30	\$681.15	\$709.14	\$709.18
Transportation & Utilities	\$424.53	\$416.11	\$462.50	\$505.31	\$512.53	\$514.70
Wholesale & Retail	\$231.16	\$229.96	\$242.00	\$262.31	\$263.50	\$262.37
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$410.73	\$429.88	\$150.66	\$479.76	\$529.51	\$538.46
Service	\$253.96	\$262.31	\$258.00	\$259.81	\$269.77	\$274.88
Government	\$371.91	\$418.74	\$505.74	\$533.93	\$555.04	\$559.73

Table 3.48 shows the average weekly earnings by sector for Noble County. Between 1995-2000 every sector increased their average weekly wages, with government leading the way with a \$187.82 increase.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Business Starts	8	17	19	21	24	25	24	11	15
Business Terminations	17	16	19	30	na*	17	24	na	na
Net Change	-9	1	0	-9	na*	8	0	na	na
Total Active Businesses	218	218	216	212	207	226	228	216	206

The business environment in Noble County is proceeding forward on a positive note. The number of business starts in 2003 almost double the figure for 1995. After seeing increased levels of active businesses from 2000-2002, the number has declined to just below the level in 1995.

Perry County Economics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Ohio 2003
Civilian Labor Force	15,000	14,500	14,200	14,500	14,200	14,400	14,700	15,000	5,915,000
Employment	13,700	13,400	13,200	13,300	13,100	13,400	13,500	13,500	5,552,000
Unemployment	1,300	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,100	1,000	1,200	1,500	363,000
Unemployment Rate	8.8	7.7	7.4	8.2	7.4	7.1	8.1	9.8	6.1

After seeing highs in civilian labor force and employment in 1996, the Perry County civilian labor force has seen a return to near-1995 levels in every category. The unemployment rate has increased 1.7% in the past year to 9.8%, a level higher than that in 1996.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	6,693	6,775	6,863	6,818	6,735	6,835	6,645
Agriculture	48	50	58	47	50	71	20
Mining	241	238	260	238	226	253	197
Construction	285	316	367	388	432	428	452
Manufacturing	1,703	1,636	1,703	1,838	1,656	1,631	1,520
Transportation & Utilities	206	237	230	206	181	162	102
Wholesale & Retail	1,220	1,189	1,179	1,183	1,290	1,351	912
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	211	203	194	193	198	210	242
Service	1,247	1,267	1,209	1,038	1,036	1,004	136
Government	1,591	1,639	1,663	1,687	1,668	1,725	1,822

Perry County has seen positive gains in the construction and government sectors between 1995 and 2001. The overall employment level in all industries has been steady during this time.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$403.82	\$411.47	\$445.42	\$446.60	\$454.23	\$468.57
Agriculture	\$356.42	\$310.17	na	\$346.36	\$370.70	\$373.01
Mining	\$460.49	\$491.44	na	\$520.91	\$558.48	\$680.60
Construction	\$819.45	\$774.53	\$412.66	\$625.64	\$705.10	\$791.22
Manufacturing	\$482.64	\$512.32	\$585.63	\$559.05	\$543.26	\$580.76
Transportation & Utilities	\$621.96	\$600.42	\$508.92	\$656.70	\$694.65	\$653.85
Wholesale & Retail	\$356.95	\$340.95	\$305.21	\$335.92	\$339.69	\$300.85
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$368.92	\$388.02	\$392.97	\$406.21	\$414.47	\$429.72
Service	\$268.75	\$281.03	\$301.90	\$354.92	\$376.46	\$383.54
Government	\$354.89	\$359.85	\$433.65	\$388.15	\$404.92	\$423.57

Table 3.52 shows average weekly wages for Perry County. All sectors saw modest gains; with mining reporting the largest increase of \$220.11. Only construction and wholesale & retail saw losses over the given time span.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Business Starts	92	99	68	94	93	116	94	107	105
Business Terminations	73	85	93	94	na*	92	88	na	na
Net Change	19	14	-25	0	na*	24	6	na	na
Total Active Businesses	582	604	553	535	579	617	620	643	656

Table 3.53 illustrates the business environment in Perry County. Perry County saw increased levels in new business starts in 2002 and 2003. The level of total active businesses also increased to an eight year high.

Washington County Economics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Ohio 2003
Civilian Labor Force	32,600	32,800	32,500	32,400	32,700	32,100	32,700	33,400	5,915,000
Employment	30,400	30,800	30,700	30,500	31,000	30,900	31,100	31,400	5,552,000
Unemployment	2,100	1,900	1,800	1,900	1,600	1,200	1,600	2,000	363,000
Unemployment Rate	6.5	5.9	5.5	5.9	5	3.8	4.8	6	6

Washington County has seen an increase in employment levels and a slight decrease in unemployment levels in 2003, a positive sign for the county. The unemployment rate since the low levels of 2001 and 2002 has increased to 6%. Washington County continually has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the district.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Industries	23,794	23,766	24,219	24,170	24,150	24,330	24,420
Agriculture	180	220	231	223	243	272	128
Mining	240	261	229	218	224	262	310
Construction	1,799	1,557	1,722	1,725	1,701	1,603	1,580
Manufacturing	5,338	5,425	5,508	5,474	5,594	5,553	5,124
Transportation & Utilities	1,165	890	871	917	884	855	702
Wholesale & Retail	6,037	6,245	6,312	6,158	6,104	6,088	4,064
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	814	817	840	826	834	843	882
Service	5,286	5,218	5,316	5,494	5,418	5,714	802
Government	3,098	3,133	3,192	3,135	3,149	3,142	3,413

Washington County experienced some losses in manufacturing and wholesale & retail sectors from 2000. Overall employment in all industries has reached a six-year high.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Industries	\$448.81	\$458.82	\$479.99	\$505.60	\$503.05	\$514.65
Agriculture	\$240.81	\$261.40	\$268.56	\$313.82	\$314.19	\$353.27
Mining	\$389.57	\$438.01	\$435.62	\$431.49	\$458.79	\$490.59
Construction	\$534.41	\$527.86	\$550.56	\$539.25	\$548.63	\$527.79
Manufacturing	\$669.21	\$687.85	\$709.35	\$748.39	\$743.12	\$750.49
Transportation & Utilities	\$565.24	\$523.44	\$548.16	\$550.44	\$573.07	\$584.35
Wholesale & Retail	\$265.75	\$280.37	\$297.60	\$313.48	\$307.13	\$317.78
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$427.22	\$439.98	\$449.06	\$482.97	\$491.23	\$514.44
Service	\$395.85	\$418.78	\$450.14	\$486.20	\$465.23	\$484.35
Government	\$441.88	\$452.46	\$464.53	\$486.19	\$497.98	\$524.76

The average weekly wages for industrial sectors in Washington County have all increased with the exception of construction. The agricultural sector was the greatest gainer with an increase of \$112.46.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Business Starts	194	142	150	128	107	97	140	110	111
Business Terminations	154	97	164	144	na*	108	110	na	na
Net Change	40	45	-14	-16	na*	-11	30	na	na
Total Active Businesses	1,532	1,541	1,506	1,484	1,451	1,433	1,447	1,485	1,483

Washington County has seen a decrease in new business starts from a high of 194 in 1995, to a low of 97 in 2000. A strong comeback was made in 2001 as 140 businesses opened their doors in Washington County. The number of total active businesses is still lower than it was in 1995, but levels have remained steady over the past two years.

	Gov't. Payments to Individuals	Retirement and Disability
BHHVRDD	\$1,154,072,000	\$451,567,000
Athens	\$251,516,000	\$77,228,000
Hocking	\$129,817,000	\$52,797,000
Meigs	\$121,206,000	\$44,130,000
Monroe	\$74,455,000	\$32,301,000
Morgan	\$72,508,000	\$28,470,000
Noble	\$51,906,000	\$23,311,000
Perry	\$155,722,000	\$61,924,000
Washington	\$296,942,000	\$131,406,000

Table 3.59 shows us the amount of direct federal payments to individuals for fiscal year 2002. As is to be expected 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.

ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Educational Attainment

Area	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 3.60 illustrates educational attainment in individuals age 25 and over for the year 2000. The Buckeye Hills region has a 10% higher high school graduate level than the state. Perry County had the highest percentage, 51.1%, of persons over 25 with a high school diploma. The region falls slightly behind when it comes to collegiate attainment. The region's over 25 population with some college education is roughly 15%, while the state level is 19.9%. 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.)

	Athens	Hocking	Meigs	Monroe	Morgan	Noble	Perry	Washington
Management	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	124
Professional and Technical Services	995	248	180	143	140	83	217	1,241
Retail	3,354	1,364	968	626	662	514	895	4,031
Forestry, Fisheries, and Related	83	n/a	n/a	91	n/a	65	47	149
Construction	1,251	777	750	409	572	183	918	3,517
Manufacturing	1,102	1,440	n/a	1,954	615	667	1,538	4,816
Transportation	344	n/a	n/a	192	n/a	172	144	920

	Grants Awarded
BHHVRDD	\$340,438,153
Athens	\$108,484,852
Hocking	\$30,715,759
Meigs	\$40,745,926
Monroe	\$22,758,250
Morgan	\$16,580,918
Noble	\$13,245,860
Perry	\$37,281,453
Washington	\$70,625,135

Table 3.62 shows the dollar amounts for federal grants awarded in the region during fiscal year 2002. Athens and Washington Counties were the leaders in this category, bringing in nearly \$180 million between them.

	Direct Loans	Guaranteed Loans
BHHVRDD	\$108,759,926	\$64,906,011
Athens	\$92,771,796	\$30,375,281
Hocking	\$702,293	\$5,735,430
Meigs	\$60,040	\$1,887,190
Monroe	\$351,075	\$627,427
Morgan	\$269,248	\$1,152,949
Noble	\$223,095	\$231,376
Perry	\$1,847,727	\$8,779,495
Washington	\$12,534,652	\$16,116,863

Table 3.64 – Finance (1999)				
	Ohio Chartered		Ohio Chartered	
	Banks	Assets	S&L/Savings	Assets
BHHVRDD	17	\$1,762,415,000	12	\$472,316,000
Athens	2	\$187,200,000	3	\$124,084,000
Hocking	2	\$172,907,000	0	\$0
Meigs	1	\$96,923,000	0	\$0
Monroe	0	\$0	3	\$83,742,000
Morgan	0	\$0	0	\$0
Noble	1	\$59,326,000	2	\$39,784,000
Perry	4	\$150,661,000	1	\$427,000
Washington	7	\$1,095,398,000	3	\$224,279,000

CHAPTER IV

REGIONAL ISSUES

In June and July of 2004, the staff of Buckeye Hills invited local economic development practitioners and experts to two informal discussions to determine issues of local and regional importance. These meetings looked at the state of the regional economy; external trends and forces; partners for economic development; and resources for economic development. Not only were the selected CEDS committee members invited, but also all county commissioners, mayors, and economic development professionals from the region.

State of the economy

Strengths and weaknesses of the region

The strengths of the region were identified as: a large reliable workforce with a strong work ethic; regional pride; high quality educational opportunities for young people; continued low cost of living; location to major markets; the rural character of the environment; continuing improvement of water systems; a diverse economy; abundant natural resources, unique geographical features, abundance of historical attractions, and good access to local leaders and decision makers.

Some of the weakness that were identified are: a lack of access to interstate highways; the topography of the region is varied and sometimes limiting; many distressed areas (both statistically and environmentally) the lack of water and sewer in some rural areas; conservative nature of local banking institutions; regionalism; new and changing regulations in funding programs, lack of initiative on the local level, and business losses due to out-of-state and foreign competition.

As brought up in previous CEDS documents, funding issues are still mentioned as a weakness in the region. The budgetary issues throughout the nation, and especially on the state level in Ohio have made virtually all funding programs much more competitive and limited at the same time. Now more than ever are measurable and accountable outcomes necessary to secure funding on any level. Often results are being looked for in shorter amounts of time compared to before. Many programmatic and regulation changes have happened simultaneously to these issues, further complicating an already complex picture.

Growth sectors of the economy

The regional committees identified several growth sectors in their local economies. The sudden and rapid deployment of telecommunications technologies throughout the region was a surprise to many in attendance. High-speed Internet coverage/availability (cable modem or DSL) has grown significantly in the past two years. A study undertaken by the Governor's Office of Appalachia between 2002 and 2004 outlines this growth in all of Appalachia. It can be accessed at www.accessappalachia.org. The deployment of this technology is aiding existing businesses and the attraction of new business in our region of Appalachia. Other growth sectors were: small and medium manufacturing, and local artisan industries.

Driving force of the economy

The driving force of the economy for the majority of the counties in the region is the tourism industry. The marketing of the Region's historical and cultural legacy is thriving and continuing to grow. Conservation activities involving historical buildings and sites, as well as preservation of green space and wilderness areas, are prevalent and stem from the acknowledgement of the economic value of our natural and historical assets.

External trends and forces

Opportunities and threats

An external opportunity outlined by our panel of local professionals was the abundance of commercial buildings and properties in the district. Some seemed to feel that some of these areas are more of an eyesore to their respective communities, than an opportunity. But many of these available properties are high quality, and are capable of supporting business. The availability of these properties, along with constantly improving access to infrastructure assets such as public water, sewer, roads and highways, as well as access to telecommunications technologies, are all helping the cause of economic development in Southeast Ohio.

Another opportunity discussed was that of local initiative. Some members of the committee felt that if local communities could unify and strengthen their local initiative and resources toward projects, project selection, and funding sources, they could greatly improve their chances of being successful.

Within the past three years, external pressures and forces have begun to slowly draw businesses away from our eight-county district. Out-of-state incentives such as tax breaks, increased amounts of grant funds, as well as some regulatory issues have made it hard for many places in Ohio to compete with their bordering state neighbors. Foreign pressures are also starting to become apparent in local economies throughout the district. As overseas labor and material prices continue to fall, the trend of outsourcing (especially in the manufacturing sector) is beginning to drain some of the employment and business opportunities once found locally.

Some of the other threats that were discussed were:

Prohibitive matching-fund requirements for participation in some funding programs at the state and federal level and the sometimes overwhelming administrative burden of some program requirements upon small local communities. A general concern expressed by nearly all present, was the fact that funding opportunities are becoming more limited and more competitive, due to dwindling available resources. The general feeling was that as the level of competition increased, it would be increasingly harder for the small and rural communities in our district to compete in some programs.

Regional position in the national and global economies

There was a general sense that the region is still moving in the right direction in terms of national and global economies. The large industries are networked and structured such that they are able to compete on a global scale. This is also true of niche manufactures as well. The opinion is that the niche markets have staked out a position in the national and global playing field. The smaller businesses and industries in the region are not quite at that level yet. But these small industries are making strides in that direction by working with local experts to promote their products and services to wider markets.

Organizations in the region are still battling the stigma and stereotypes associated with the term ‘Appalachia.’ To bodies outside of the immediate region, the term ‘Appalachian’ is synonymous with being behind the learning curve, slow to develop, of lower quality, or inferior. These stereotypes damage our collective ability to promote existing business or attract new investment. But rapid advances in areas such as education and telecommunications technology are helping us to fight those perceptions.

Partners for economic development

The important actors in the region

There is a long list of important partners for economic development in the region. At the federal level there is the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, the Small Business Development Center, the Environmental Protection Agency, 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 in 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, County Commissioners, and Mayors, are all active in the creation economic development opportunities. Outside of government, the utility companies and the lending institutions are also actively taking a role in marketing the region and promoting economic development.

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 and 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 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 the 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 comes from: 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.

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

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;

And that local communities provide sufficient public infrastructure; education; and necessary social services to strengthen the quality of life.

REGIONAL GOALS

During the process of analyzing the regional issues and creating the regional vision, a number of goals were put forward as objectives that Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District and its partners should focus on.

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:

- Make Retaining our Educated Young People a Priority
- Continue to Improve Infrastructure
- Lobby State Agencies for New and/or Updated Programs
- Continue to Increase Planning Activities
- Enhance Tourism
- Increase Buckeye Hills Visibility Within the Region
- Dedicate More Resources to Assisting Existing Business to Stay and Grow
- Implement Sustainable Development Practices
- Help Local Communities Better React to Quickly Changing Regulations and Guidelines
- Continue to Actively Lobby Government Officials for Increased Funding
- Increase Initiative on the Local Level
- Continue to Foster Positive Relationships with Local Leaders
- Foster Non-Conventional Economic Development
- Increase Access to the Region – both Highway and Telecommunication
- Encourage Counties to Prioritize Infrastructure Projects
- Work Together to Curb ‘Regionalism’
- Continue to Improve the Roads in the Region
- 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. Leverage Existing Resources More Effectively
2. Increased Ability to Assist Existing Businesses
3. Continue Addressing Infrastructure Needs
4. Address ‘Soft Issues’ in the Region
5. Enhance Tourism, Travel & Retail Development

Leverage Existing Resources More Effectively

What is the severity of the problem?

The committee felt this was a serious problem in our area. Many times local communities are not necessarily seeking more resources (i.e. grant or loan funds) but simply more flexibility to use the resources they already have in the ways they see best fit. The members realize that resources are limited and are constantly growing more limited as time passes; therefore it seems more realistic to better utilize what is on hand than to seek increased or alternative mediums.

What is the scope?

The scope of the goal is long term.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is interrelated with the other goals listed above. If communities were allowed more flexibility to use their resources as they saw fit, it may help combat some of the other problems we listed and discussed.

Does the goal make best use of existing resources?

The focus of this goal is to improve the efficient use of existing resources.

Increased Ability to Assist Existing Businesses

What is the severity of the problem?

This problem severe, but could become critical in the near future.

What is the scope?

The scope of the goal is shorter in term than some of the others. If steps are not taken in the short term to prevent existing businesses from leaving the region or the state, this will become a very serious problem.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is interrelated with the other goals discussed above. One of our overall goals is to create diverse economies that provide sustainable development and a living wage. If we cannot help our local businesses to stay open and to stay in the region, we will have a very difficult time achieving our aim of a diverse economy that provides sustainable development and a living wage.

Does the goal make best use of existing resources?

This goal will help to make improved use of existing resources. Some of the economic development professionals in the discussions felt that they had more than enough resources to try and attract outside expansion business or new business to their areas. They, however, did not feel that they had enough resources to aid local business that already existed in their areas. A similar point was made that it would be a better use of existing resources to try and keep the businesses we have, than to try and attract heavy industrial and manufacturing businesses that have been rapidly moving to cheaper markets overseas.

Continue addressing infrastructure needs

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

This problem is severe and ongoing.

What is the scope of the goal?

The scope of the goal is long-termed. There will always be infrastructure improvements to be made. When valuable infrastructure investments are made, be they roads, water and sewer, telecommunications, bridges, etc, it is important that we protect and maintain that investment.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

Again this goal is interrelated with the other goals listed. It is all but impossible to attract business and economic development opportunities to our region if we do not have adequate infrastructure in place to support those businesses.

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

Infrastructure needs are 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 your region.

Address 'soft issues' in the region

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

When people consider our area for commercial or residential use, infrastructure is not the only item considered when making that decision. Many people do not realize that 'soft issues' also play a part in economic development. 'Soft issues' are things such as quality of local school systems, access to universities/colleges, access to health care (doctors, dentists, ophthalmologists, specialists, etc), public

safety services, etc. This can be a severe problem that is often unidentified by the casual observer.

What is the scope of the goal?

The scope of the goal is long-term and very involved. The ‘soft issues’ mentioned above are all things that are influenced by our leaders and public policy; so bringing about sudden changes is especially difficult. If changes and improvements are able to be made in these areas, the benefits are far reaching; not only is the overall improved quality of life, but there are increased opportunities to attract outside investment in the area.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is directly related to not only the economic development efforts of the district, but it helps us achieve some of the aims set out in our regional vision and goals. (i.e. strengthening the quality of life, provide essential social services, etc.)

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

The resources for this goal include unique programs such as Clean Ohio and Brownfield programs and the work of the various tourism agencies and historical societies. ARC monies are utilized for health-related projects on a frequent basis. These resources are well utilized but better coordination among them is always possible and should be pursued. The development of other unique programs that address environmental, cultural, social, and health issues should continually be encouraged.

Enhance Tourism, Travel & Retail Development

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

Tourism, travel, and retail development are rapidly becoming increasingly important to the district as the traditional economic drivers such as heavy manufacturing and natural resource extraction begin to weaken their hold on the local economy. These areas are becoming the new sectors with great potential for growth and profit in the region.

What is the scope of the goal?

The scope of the goal is shorter in term than some of the previous goals. Concentrated efforts are already taking place in the district to strengthen these areas of the local economy. Some members of the committee felt that these were areas that could produce real and immediate benefit to the region if we are able to develop and promote them properly.

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

This goal is related to the other goals in that they are all working toward our aims set out in our regional vision and goals. This goal focuses on trying to create a diverse economy, sustainable development, and a living wage. Some of the traditional economic opportunities in the region are beginning to be replaced by new sectors, which are gaining momentum within the district. The committee felt that since tourism, travel, and retail development were so closely related that they could be combined into one goal area.

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

Some members of the committee expressed the opinion that we as a district are expending too many of our limited resources on trying to attract the same kinds of businesses we always have (i.e. factory style heavy manufacturing). Utilizing resources to improve on an already growing sector of the local economy can only further our economic development goals.

CHAPTER VI ACTION PLAN

Leverage Existing Resources More Effectively

Objective: To give local communities the ability to better utilize the resources that already exist within our region.

Strengths and Weakness:

- The prospects for new funding opportunities or increased funding levels are slim at the current time.
- The purpose of this goal is to give more control to the communities in choosing how they expend resources to meet their needs. Some felt that program regulations are too rigid when it comes to deciding what would best benefit the local residents.

Strategies:

- Communities need to be very selective in choosing projects that will give them the maximum results in consideration of the resources they must put in.
- Have communities prioritize their needs prior to seeking the appropriate funding measures.

Implementation:

Short-term

- Better inform communities of funding opportunities that currently exist.
- Encourage communities to be more proactive in searching out projects and programs that will provide them the maximum possible benefit.

Intermediate-term

- Have counties form taskforces to prioritize infrastructure projects, development projects, etc.
- Encourage communities to engage the local population to help in determining what are the most urgent needs.

Long-term

- Lobby state agencies and organizations for regular programmatic and regulatory updates, as well as new programs.

Increased ability to assist existing businesses

Objective: The more effective utilization of resources to assist businesses already existing and operating in the region.

Strengths and Weakness:

- Abundant natural resources of the area provide good raw materials for a number of resource intensive industries.
- The perception of the region is one of a strong work ethic, but limited job skills.
- Out –of-state and foreign competition is only going to get tougher as economic conditions across the region, state, and nation tighten.

Strategies:

- Less focus on traditional forms of economic development, incorporate more creativity in to attracting new kinds of economic development opportunities.
- Foster better relationships between business owners and local leaders so the needs of the economic community can be best addressed.
- Continue to improve on our educational opportunities in the region so that our local businesses are able to have the skilled workforce they need.

Implementation:

Short-term

- Continue to advertise the Revolving Loan Fund programs to local businesses.

Intermediate-term

- Meet regularly with local industries to see what their needs are and how they can be addressed.
- Continue to utilize a database of industrial parks, and available industrial buildings/properties in the region.
- Foster non-conventional forms of economic development.

Long-term

- Continue focusing on increasing the technical training of the labor force.
- Create new industrial sites.
- Continue the improvement of infrastructure so goods and services may be moved easily throughout the region.
- Emphasize the rapidly expanding telecommunications capabilities of the region.

Continue addressing infrastructure needs

Objective: To enhance the natural and scenic qualities of the region so that it is a pleasurable experience to both the tourist and the native.

Strengths and Weakness:

- Government funding sources traditionally give less money to areas where fewer people are.
- Due to the topography of the region, extension of water and sewer is difficult and costly.
- Through the process of mergers, the major rail companies in the region are closing active lines.
- Many counties in our district do not have a major road passing through. Often times this hampers development efforts.

Strategies:

- 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.
- Emphasize connectivity between projects. Many funding sources today are looking for project ‘clustering’ in order to get the most benefit for their investment.
- Develop funding strategy 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

- Locate improvements in denser population areas.
- Anticipate future growth when engineering water and sewer projects.

Intermediate-term

- Have counties form taskforces to prioritize 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.

Address ‘soft issues’ in the region

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 all areas that are vital to the success of our district, and to the quality of life for 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).

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 active within the region that are helping fight problems such as child hunger and poverty.
- Become an advocate for the regions educational, safety, and service needs among legislators and state leaders.
- Become more aware of the current state of these areas within our local communities. (i.e. 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.

Enhance tourism, travel & retail development

Objective: To promote the natural and scenic qualities of the region, thereby increasing the number of travelers through the region, and increasing the need for retail development.

Strengths and Weakness:

- Tourism is continuing to develop into a major source of employment and revenue within the region.
- Our area is fortunate to have many historical sites that are a natural draw for travelers.
- The financial effect of tourism on a community is not immediately visible, compared to traditional sectors of employment.

- Tourism has frequent high points and low points, sometimes with long periods of time in between, with little apparent explanation. Some see these trends and consider tourism to not be a sustainable part of a local economy.
- Clashes sometimes occur between agencies responsible for protecting natural/historical qualities and agencies responsible for promoting economic development.

Strategies:

- Areas of historical and cultural significance need to be identified and marketed.
- Increase cooperation on the local level to show that the preservation of natural and historic qualities can be achieved while also pursuing new economic development opportunities.
- Continue the progress that has already been made protecting historic structures such as lock houses and covered bridges.
- Local leaders should focus on how the goals of travel, tourism, and retail development are interrelated.
- The district needs to continue focusing on the objective of ‘regional’ tourism.

Implementation:

Short-term

- Create and/or emphasize existing Scenic Byways and Waterways.
- Identify and market the local historical, cultural, natural, and recreational aspects of the region to tourists and to residents.
- Continue to protect historic structures.
- Improve the working relationships between agencies responsible for economic development and natural/historic resources.
- Continue to improve and maintain transportation infrastructure, so traveling through the region is safe and enjoyable, no matter which mode of transportation you utilize.

Intermediate-term

- Illustrate to local leaders and residents exactly how tourism affects their local economy.
- Encourage projects and participation in programs that improve high visibility areas such as downtowns, historic areas, and natural areas. (i.e. Clean Ohio Fund, Brownfield Revitalization, etc)

- Encourage cooperation and networking between local natural attractions and local businesses.

Long-term

- Focus on getting the many tourism based agencies within the district working cohesively.
- Create a regional position to market the natural qualities and recreational potential of the region and the businesses that cater to them.
- Include plans for the future development of retail and trade industries/areas based on the trends of travel and tourism in the region.

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 2004.

2004 CEDS Projects

The BH-HVRDD staff has been maintaining a continuing dialogue with local communities to address local priorities and projects. During the summer of 2004, the planning staff mailed project surveys to the county and local governments, chambers of commerce, community improvement corporations, and economic development professionals.

Project Prioritization Criteria

The projects received from the survey ranged from extending water and sewer lines to building new roads. The project prioritization criteria, listed in Appendix C, is 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.

Table 6.1
Final Project List

Project Ranking

	Jobs Created or Retained	Scope of Project	Goal Relationship	Environmental Impact	Distress Level	Total
1	Athens County – Nelsonville Business Incubator					
	20	20	20	20	10	90
	Monroe County - Business Incubator					
	20	20	20	20	10	90
	Monroe County - Industrial Park Infrastructure Upgrade					
	20	20	20	20	10	90
2	Multi-County - Enterprise Facilitation Program					
	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Regional – Appalachian Flood Risk Reduction Initiative					
	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Athens County – Industrial Park Expansion					
	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Athens County - Industrial Park Connector					
	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Meigs County - Multi Tennant Bldg.					
	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Meigs County - Middleport Trans. Loading Facility					
	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Meigs County - Rural Health Clinic					
	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Monroe County - Industrial Park Multi-Tenant Building					
	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Monroe County - Monroe Theater Restoration					
	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Noble County - Sewer Extension					
	20	20	20	20	0	80
3	Athens County - Water Line Replacement					
	5	20	20	20	10	75
	Meigs County - Assisted Living Facility					
	20	20	15	10	10	75

	Monroe County - Water and Sewer Extension	5	20	20	20	10	75
	Monroe County - Sewer Extension	5	20	20	20	10	75
	Noble County - Caldwell/Tri-County Water Interconnect	5	20	20	20	10	75
4	Athens County - Stream Bank Protection	5	15	20	20	10	70
	Athens County - Water and Sewer Extension	5	15	20	20	10	70
	Hocking County - Multi-Tenant Bldg	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Noble County - Industrial Park	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Washington County - Community Kitchen Incubator	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Washington County - Business Incubator Development	20	20	20	10	0	70
5	Washington County - Broad Band Communication Access	15	20	20	10	0	65
	Washington County - CR-10 Water Line Extension	5	20	20	20	0	65
	Washington County - Little Hocking Area Sewer System Improvements	5	20	20	20	0	65
	Washington County - Bartlett Sewer Project	5	20	20	20	0	65
6	Washington County - Washington State Community College -Training Facility	15	20	15	10	0	60
	Washington County - Marietta Memorial Hospital Expansion	15	20	15	10	0	60
	Washington County - Reno Sewer System Improvements	5	15	20	20	0	60
	Washington County - Devola Sewer System Upgrade	5	15	20	20	0	60
7	Washington County - Duck Creek Flood Mitigation	0	20	15	20	0	55
	Washington County - Belpre Water Storage Improvement	5	20	20	10	0	55

8	Hocking County - City Link Express	20	5	15	10	0	50
	Hocking County - Water and Sewer Extension	5	5	20	20	0	50
	Washington County - North Muskingum Bridge Project	0	20	20	10	0	50
	Washington County - State Route 7 (East) Improvement	5	20	15	10	0	50
	Washington County - Highland Ridge Water Line Extension	5	5	20	20	0	50
	Washington County - Tri-County Water Line Extension	5	5	20	20	0	50
9	Washington County - Corridor D Relocation	0	20	15	10	0	45
	Washington County - Matamoras Riverfront Park	0	5	20	20	0	45
	Washington County - Lowell-Buell Island Improvements	0	20	15	10	0	45
	Washington County - Belpre Riverfront and Civitan Park Improvements	0	5	20	20	0	45
	Washington County - Marietta Riverfront Beautification	0	5	20	20	0	45
	Washington County - Matamoras Walking Trail	0	5	20	20	0	45
	Washington County - Beverly Recreation Improvements	0	5	20	20	0	45
10	Perry County - Fire Hydrant Replacement	0	5	15	20	0	40
	Washington Count - Wingett Run Campground Expansion	5	5	20	10	0	40
	Washington County - Marietta Community Recreation	5	5	20	10	0	40
11	Hocking County - Parking Garage	5	5	15	10	0	35
	Perry County - WasteWater Treatment Building	5	5	15	10	0	35
	Washington County - Kinderhook Trail Improvement	0	5	20	10	0	35

	Washington County - Frontier Local School Improvements					
	5	15	5	10	0	35
12	Washington Count - 4-H Camp Facilities Upgrade					
	0	5	15	10	0	30
	Washington County - Equipment for Vocational School					
	0	5	15	10	0	30
	Washington County - Salem Liberty Gymnasium Improvements					
	0	5	15	10	0	30
13	Perry County - Playground Equipment					
	0	5	5	10	0	20

PLANNING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

Staff will update the CEDS and improve the CEDS process. The CEDS is a valuable tool in determining the economic health and growth of a region. This tool needs to be continually updated and improved upon to best serve the needs of the community. The staff will document the program experience during the past year. A CEDS advisory committee is formed from local economic development experts. 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 CEDS update. It is the intent of this process that a document will be produced that will guide economic development efforts for the next year.

Comprehensive Planning

The staff has been working with a number of communities and counties in the region to encourage the benefits of planning. The staff will supply support and technical assistance to communities who wish to prepare a comprehensive plan. Staff is continuing to work with a committee in Washington County in developing Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the county.

Countywide Prioritization

Buckeye Hills staff continues to meet with counties to discuss 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. Noble County has been successful in establishing a local committee that has developed a needs list, and continues to update these priorities and present them to the county commissioners. Buckeye Hills will continue to promote this process as a model for other counties throughout the region.

State Planning Program

The state planning grant program offered through the Governor's Office of Appalachia has provided funding for twenty-three projects for communities throughout the region. This program has provided \$5,000-\$10,000 dollars for communities to plan improvements for their communities and build the civic capacity required to be in the position to apply for and implement projects.

Water/Sewer Project Status Website

Buckeye Hills is working with OMEGA, OVRDC, OWDA, and GOA to develop a website to record and maintain the status of water and sewer projects throughout Appalachian Ohio. The Local Development Districts will be responsible for updating the status of projects in their respective regions on a regular basis. The purpose of the site is to keep public agencies updated on the current status of projects; display examples of funded projects to inform potential applicants on requirements for securing funding; and

to assist in identifying communities that have immediate infrastructure needs, but inadequate resources to pursue funding.

Caldwell/Tri-County Water Project

Negotiations are in process between Pure Water and Clear Water Companies and the Village of Caldwell to acquire funding and implementing a project that will provide an alternate supply of potable water to Noble County. This additional supply of water would be distributed from Tri-County Water District via the Village of Caldwell. This project will address the current issues of contaminated water and insufficient capacity and quantity of potable water.

Sustainable Development

The State of Ohio has been encouraging counties and local municipalities to implement sustainable development practices in their communities in their communities. Buckeye Hills staff will continue to provide support and technical assistance to communities preparing to implement these practices. One method of providing this technical assistance will be in the form of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). As part of the CEDS document, sustainable indicators will gradually supplement, and in some cases replace, traditional indicators. Watershed areas will be used as a geographical and informational context from which to assess issues and needs, and evaluate the scope of impact and quality of potential projects. The sustainable indicators and wetland area information provided in the CEDS will be offered in a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) format to local officials to inform and assist decision-making. Local leaders will be better equipped to make better-informed decisions by having access to information that provides them with a better understanding of the environmental, social, cultural, and economic conditions in and around their communities, and of the resources available to them.

Community Facility Survey

The staff will contact local leaders; community officials and service providers in order to create a document that will show what facilities exist in the region. A document will be produced that will show: the transportation; utility; media; education; community safety; water; and sewer systems in the eight counties and the fifty-two communities.

Water and Sewer Mapping

The Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District continues the process of compiling a map showing the coverage areas of local public water service providers and their lines in the Buckeye Hills region. The resulting document will serve as a tool to graphically show where waterlines exist in our region, as well as show us where there are gaps of service that need to be focused on in the near future.

Business Promotional Development

This activity allows Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District to assist local businesses/ entrepreneurs in improving the presentation of any business plans, marketing plans or marketing studies they may be using in order to attract new business to the area. This assistance may also be used to improve such presentations to attract

local banking interests or other pre-established businesses. The goal of this activity is to aid local business both established and new, to attract other business/ banking interests to the area.

Travel and Tourism

The staff will continue to provide support and technical assistance to communities preparing plans concerning travel and tourism and the Scenic Byway Program. Support and technical assistance can involve demographic analysis, the holding of public meeting, photography, and assistance in grant applications, and other planning activities. Such a plan will help to promote travel and tourism in the region.

Data Center

The Data Center provides demographic and economic data to public and private entities. This data is requested for any number of reasons, such as preparing grant applications or writing media reports. Staff members receive most current data from the state data center in both print and electronic formats, and use this vast information system to help keep the people in the region informed. 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 a bi-monthly newsletter detailing demographic trends in the region.

Geographical Information Systems

The staff at Buckeye Hills has been utilizing a geographical information system using ArcGIS software from ESRI. The use of GIS allows for the combination of tabular and spatially referenced data into a format that is easily readable and understandable. The GIS department has also purchased a GPS unit for use with the existing GIS software. This GPS unit will allow staff members to collect extremely precise spatial data which will have multiple uses. Services provided through these technologies are specialized map preparation, spatial data collection and/or manipulation, as well as data analysis. These services can be used to augment aid applications, complete studies, or as a tool in other decision-making processes.

Business and Technical Assistance

Staff provides assistance to local businesses and industries. As an Ohio Area 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 review is conducted in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations. This process keeps communities informed about what activities are taking place.

Regional Promotion

Buckeye Hills developed a program to promote the regions' resources and characteristics to businesses. One aspect of this was the creation of the seovirtual.com website. Staff members will continue to work with local economic development officials to update the information on the website as well as keep them informed about companies interested in expanding into the region.

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.

During the past year, Buckeye Hills secured gap financing for various projects that have a positive impact on residential and commercial sectors of the region. 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, and by repairing and upgrading our roads and bridges. Total costs for projects receiving funding over the past year was approximately \$22,000,000, with local communities and private businesses leveraging approximately \$10,000,000 against the \$11,000,000 provided through state and federal funding sources.

Tri-County Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist in the administration of CDBG Water and Sewer Program funds to assist the Washington County Commissioners in financing the water line extension to Adams and Watertown Townships. The project will extend water lines into Adams and Watertown Townships creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$631,640. The project involves 12.4 miles of water line and services approximately 47 homes. The service area is made up of County roads 60 and 4. This project will promote a positive community growth, which is needed to attract residents and businesses to the area.

Old Straitsville Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist the Perry County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Old Straitsville Water and Sewer Association. The application for CDBG Water and Sewer is due in September 2004. The project will extend water lines onto Crossenville, New Salem, Van Horn, and Marietta roads in Perry County, creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$648,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 5 miles of water line and services approximately 85 homes. The project will promote positive community growth.

West Malta Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to approximately 200 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 \$3,184,000 with construction anticipated to begin in the fall of 2004.

Bishopville Water Project

Buckeye Hills will 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, 1996 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 with construction slated to begin in the fall of 2004.

Coffee Ridge Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist in the administration of CDBG Water and Sewer Program for the Noble County Commissioners. The Coffee Ridge Waterline Project will be a 4" water line from a 10" water main in Sharon which will supply this system with a capacity of 350,000 gallons of water per day as needed to supply 19 residential taps with an average daily use of 250 gallons each, and 2 commercial taps with an average daily use of 400 gallons each.

Washington County Formula – 2003

Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2003, assisting the grantee by assuring that the six 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.

Washington County Formula – 2004

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2004, assisting the grantee by assuring that the six 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.

Morgan County Formula – 2003

Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Morgan County Formula Program for FY'2003, assisting the grantee by assuring that all six projects 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 Morgan County Commissioners.

Morgan County Formula – 2004

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Morgan County Formula Program for FY'2004, assisting the grantee by assuring that all six projects 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 Morgan County Commissioners.

PEW

Buckeye Hills will be assisting the Village of Middleport in Meigs County with the LeadershipPlenty Program developed through the Pew Partnership. This program works to develop community leaders, which, in turn, provides communities with more civic capacity.

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 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 various SCIP/LTIP programs.

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.

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 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.

Brownfields

The staff will be awarding three (3) Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment grant (\$5,000 each) to three entities to enable them to perform environmental site assessments on potential industrial/commercial sites to evaluate the properties' environmental conditions and determine if clean up will be necessary. Staff will also assist one community in preparing a Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment grant through the Clean Ohio Revitalization fund.

Revolving Loan Fund

Buckeye Hills will provide low interest loan money to small businesses in the region using ARC, EDA, FmHA and CDBG funding. The loan funds are to act as the enhancement to existing businesses to expand and to assist new businesses wishing to locate in the region. This will lead to retention and creation of jobs within the region.

During the past year, the RLF program was streamlined to allow businesses to move through the application process much easier, quicker and more efficiently. Buckeye Hills made one loan for \$250,000 this past year resulting in 24 jobs created or retained in the District.

Since its creation, the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund has made 93 loans amounting to \$4,662,452 and creating and retaining 1,481 jobs, with private businesses leveraging \$22,995,515.

Trickle Up Program

Buckeye Hills will work with entrepreneurs to apply for grants through the Trickle Up Program. The Trickle Up Program is available to assist entrepreneurs in the purchase of tools, supplies, and raw materials needed to start their own business or expand their business to the next level. The program is targeted to the most economically disadvantaged sectors of the population in the Appalachian region, and can assist a wide variety of businesses such as food-processing, clothes-making, crafts and retail enterprises. Since 2001, 56 grants have been awarded to entrepreneurs for a total of \$37,100. The entrepreneurs have used the grants to purchase items required to make their business sustainable. Buckeye Hills staff will meet with eligible applicants to assist them with the development of a business plan and help complete the application for the grant.

Housing Program

The Development Department 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 \$200,000 to assist low-income elderly with home repair. These grant monies will be used for housing needs that are beyond the financial and physical maintenance abilities of the elder homeowner. The program will help in accessibility and home repair needs to maintain a decent, safe and accessible environment for the homeowner.

Buckeye Hills' Housing Program will continue to update the Directory of Elderly Housing and Services in Southeastern Ohio. Surveys will be collected from known providers of elderly services. The surveys request information on the type of services and amenities available in their local area. The Housing Program will input the completed survey data into an online database and make hard copies available to all interested parties by accessing the Buckeye Hills web site and searching for the type of services the consumer has an interest in finding. These services include information on the local Senior Center locations and activities offered, assisted and independent living facilities, nursing homes, apartments and other items of local interest to senior citizens living in or interested in moving to the region.

Disability Outreach & Advocacy (AT of Ohio)

The staff will assist securing funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission for the Disability Outreach and Advocacy program that AT of Ohio is creating. The purpose of the program is to provide the tools necessary for people with disabilities to become more self-sufficient for transportation, communication, independent living, and education enhancement through the use of computers and adaptive technology. This will promote the regions workforce and improve the standard of living for people with disabilities. The project's outcomes will result in facilitating greater independent living and consumer choice for people with disabilities

Water and Sewer Board Member Training

Buckeye Hills will continue working with the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association, the Ohio RCAP, and Ohio State University in implementing and continually updating and enhancing a training program for water and sanitary sewer system board members. Board members are being trained in management, fiscal operations, and system operations. Two training sessions have been completed.

Appalachian Community Learning Project

Buckeye Hills' will continue to participate in the ACLP program. This program, sponsored by ARC, offers communities the opportunity to present a community improvement project to ARC and GOA. ARC and GOA decide whether or not to invest \$3,000 in the project as presented. Communities are challenged to make the \$3,000 go as far as possible by identifying multiple resources and empowering people in their community to work together toward a common goal. Another session of the ACLP program is expected to begin in late 2004.

Enterprise Facilitation

Buckeye Hills, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, ACEnet, and the Foundation for Appalachia Ohio are working together to implement a strategy that will increase entrepreneurial activity by establishing a network of resources that are readily accessible to entrepreneurs interested in starting or expanding a business. The program will provide enterprise facilitators who will make initial contact with entrepreneurs and bring them into an established network of resources to include a 30-35 member local board of management formed to serve as an advisory team for entrepreneurs, the Small Business Development Center, the Local Development District's Revolving Loan Fund Committee, and various business sector experts. The overall approach is based upon Ernesto Sirolli's trinity of management concept. The concept is that for a business to succeed, three elements need to be managed passionately – product development, marketing, and financial management. Entrepreneurs love doing only one or two of these. This program will link the entrepreneur to the resources with the expertise he/she lacks. The Economic Development Administration has shown interest in funding portions of this project. It is anticipated that it will be a three-year process in which to obtain program self-sufficiency.

Caregiver Advocacy

Area Agency on Aging staff will continue enhancing and implementing a program that will address the needs of caregivers in our District. This program will allow for the caregiver to receive case management services from the AAA. This program will provide individuals the aid of a professional to assist caregivers in developing and coordinating services both formal and informal while providing to the caregiver short-term respite options which include: Adult Day Services, Personal Care Respite, Homemaker Respite and Overnight Respite. The program will provide in-home education to caregivers and also provide counseling to caregivers on an as needed basis to those in our district. The program will serve as an information and referral source for the District.

Home Health Aide Training Program

The Area Agency on Aging, in partnership with Washington State Community College, will continue to enhance the curriculum for and implement the Home Health Aide Training Program. This training program addresses not only the fundamental aspects of Home Health as related to the elderly, but also address issues related to serving clients in a rural area. It will include segments on Disease Process, Basic Health Care (blood pressure, transferring, toileting, bathing, and bed changing), sensitivity to aging, nutrition, Respecting Choices (living wills, durable medical power of attorney) death and dying, rural isolation, dealing with distant caregivers and issues as they relate to workers in rural areas (no public transportation, miles between clients, work ethics, ethics of relationships with clients and lack of centralized child care). This program allows trainees to obtain college credit for completing the course should they desire to further their education in the health field, such as nursing or one of the therapies. This curriculum will allow trainees to receive credit on a 100 level. The Area Agency will continue to pursue using the curriculum to train Home Health Aides throughout the eight county area. The agency plans on partnering with home health providers in the district to employ trainees, who graduate from this program.

CHAPTER VII EVALUATION

A key function of the CEDS is the evaluation of the past years activities. The goals set by last years Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Advisory Council, in order of importance were:

1. Improve Infrastructure
2. Increase Funding
3. Enhance Tourism
4. Assist Businesses to Stay and Grow
5. Increase Planning Activities

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.

During the grant period, staff provided technical assistance in the form of grant writing and administration of funds for several public entities and their projects. Some of those projects included: Washington County Commissioners/ Tri-County Rural Water District/ Adams and Watertown Townships waterline extension; Village of Chesterhill/ Waterline extension.

Staff collected pre-applications for the Appalachian Regional Commission FFY'2004 Project Packages and submitted the package to the BH-HVRDD Executive Committee for their approval. Staff collected pre-applications for the Appalachian Regional Commission FFY'2005 Project Packages and will submit that package to the BH-HVRDD Executive Committee for their approval later this year. Staff worked with the applicants selected to receive FFY'2004 ARC funding to prepare full applications, and those applications were submitted to the Governor's Office of Appalachia for their review. Staff is currently awaiting the meeting between the LDD's and the GOA to determine the state-wide package for submission to ARC.

Staff provided services to the District 18 Ohio Public Works Integrating Committee and collected, rated and ranked projects which were submitted for funding under Round 18 of the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvements and Local Transportation Improvements Programs. Staff also collected, rated, and ranked applications for the District 18 Small Government Committee. Round 18 projects were

submitted to the OPWC for processing and grant agreements will arrive to the communities receiving funding around July 1, 2004.

The staff provided assistance to District 18 Clean Ohio- Revitalization program, which 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 coordinated the activities of the various District 18 communities, which included, but was not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements and collecting applications. However, District 18 received no applications for the second round.

Staff also provided services to the District 18 Ohio Public Works Commission Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) by collecting, rating and ranking projects submitted for funding under Round 2 of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Program.

Staff provided administrative services to the Washington County Commissioners and the Morgan County Commissioners for their CDBG Formula Allocation Program. Applications were received, public hearings held and a grant application was submitted to the Office of Housing & Community Partnerships for their review. A grant agreement has been received and the process of bidding the projects continues.

GIS staff completed various specialized mapping projects for the District.

IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Community Development staff of Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District has carried on it's mission of improving the infrastructure of the region. It has accomplished this through various programs such as the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP); Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP); Community Development Block Grant Formula Allocation Program; and Water and Sewer programs.

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 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 various SCIP/LTIP programs.

Result: Twenty-Nine infrastructure projects received funding through the SCIP/LTIP program, leveraging \$8,143,079 in Public Works Commission funding. There were 20 paving projects, 6 water and sewer projects, 2 bridge replacements, and 1 road stabilization project.

Community Development Block Grant Formula Allocation Program

Washington County Formula – 2002

Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2002, assisting the grantee by assuring that the six projects within Washington County, and two projects 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: The projects were completed except for the Village of Macksburg acquisition this project could not be completed.

Washington County Formula – 2003

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2003, assisting the grantee by assuring that the six 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: The application has been approved and projects will be started this summer and should be completed by December 31, 2004.

Morgan County Formula – 2002

Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Morgan County Formula Program for FY'2002, assisting the grantee by assuring that all six projects 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 Morgan County Commissioners.

Result: As a result of FY 2002 Formula Funding two fire departments were able to purchase necessary equipment to aid in fire fighting and rescue, improvements were made to the Morgan County Senior Center, Manchester Township was able to rehabilitate

the Community Center, and the Malta McConnelsville Joint Recreation District was able to provide handicap access to the pool.

Morgan County Formula – 2003

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Morgan County Formula Program for FY'2003, assisting the grantee by assuring that all five projects 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 Morgan County Commissioners.

Result: Grant agreements have been signed and the environmental review process initiated, projects will be advertised for bid beginning in July 2004.

Water and Sewer

Tri-County Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist in the administration of CDBG Water and Sewer Program funds to assist the Washington County Commissioners in financing the water line extension to Adams and Watertown Townships. The project will extend water lines into Adams and Watertown Townships creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$631,640. The project involves 12.4 miles of water line and services approximately 47 homes. The service area is made up of County roads 60 and 4. This project will promote a positive community growth, which is needed to attract residents and businesses to the area.

Result: The contract was signed in December 2003 and the waterline extension should be completed by July 2004. The project extended water lines into Adams and Watertown Townships 47 homes have been affected by the project.

Belle Valley Water Tank

Buckeye Hills will assist in the administration of CDBG Water and Sewer Program funds to assist the Noble County Commissioners in financing the replacement of a water storage tank. The existing 100,000-gallon concrete stave tank is in a severely dilapidated condition, and is in imminent danger of failing. This tank will be replaced by a 100,000-gallon glass-lined steel ground storage tank that will serve 585 residents in Noble County. The estimated total cost is \$140,000. Ohio Great Lakes RCAP funds are also assisting in financing this project. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2004.

Result: Construction of the Belle Valley Water Storage Tank has been completed to serve 585 residents of Noble County.

Old Straitsville Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist Hocking County in administering ARC and CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project that includes the reconfiguration of a

water system so it can adequately service approximately 920 households in Perry and Hocking Counties. This project includes the installation of approximately 3,200 linear feet of water line and a booster station. The project is anticipated to be complete in fall 2003.

Result: The project was completed in February 2004. 3,700 Linear feet of water line was installed and a booster station.

Old Straitsville Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist Old Straitsville in applying for CDBG Water and Sewer Grant. The application for CDBG Water and Sewer is due in September 2003. The project will extend water lines onto Marietta road creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$584,800. The project involves 42,000 linear feet of water line and services approximately 54 homes. The project will promote a positive community growth.

Result: Old Straitsville may not directly apply for funding because they are not an eligible entity, so the staff is working with the Perry County Commissioners. The Perry County Commissioners are completing a priority project listing for water projects. The staff will continue to work with Old Straitsville and the Perry County Commissioners.

West Malta Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to approximately 200 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 \$3,184,000 with construction anticipated to begin in the Fall of 2004.

Result: Grant agreements have been received and funds are in place to begin construction.

Bishopville Water Project

Buckeye Hills will 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, 1996 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 with construction slated to begin Fall 2004.

Result: Grant agreements have been received and funds are in place to begin construction.

Coffee Ridge Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist in the administration of CDBG Water and Sewer Program for the Noble County Commissioners. The Coffee Ridge Waterline Project will be a 4" and 8" water line from a 10" water main in Sharon which will supply this system with a

capacity of 350,000 gallons of water per day as needed to supply 19 residential taps with an average daily use of 250 gallons each, and 2 commercial taps with an average daily use of 400 gallons each. Construction for this project is scheduled to begin May 2004 with a completion date of December 2004. The estimated total cost of the project is \$336,000.

Result: Engineer was selected and plans are awaiting approval from EPA.

INCREASE FUNDING

Funding is always limited, but funding can be increased by ensuring that the communities in our region are awarded a bigger chunk of the state and federal money that is available. Projects are more likely to receive funding if communities show that there is consistent and broad support for a project, and that a project has a significant and beneficial impact in the community and it builds upon the work that has been done and leads naturally to other projects.

Countywide Prioritization

Buckeye Hills staff continues to meet with counties to discuss 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 the impression of broad and consistent support for a given project. Noble County, with assistance from Buckeye Hills, has been successful in establishing a local committee that has developed a needs list and continues to update their priority projects and present them to the commissioners. Buckeye Hills has begun assisting Perry County in beginning the process of developing a mechanism for determining and establishing countywide priorities. Buckeye Hills will continue to promote this process throughout the region.

Result: Countywide prioritizing of projects has resulted in broader support for projects and identification of more resources that enable projects to get funded and completed successfully.

Geographic Information System Services (GIS)/Data Center Services

Buckeye Hills will continue to act as the Data Center for the eight-county region, providing timely demographic and economic data to public and private entities. Buckeye Hills will also provide GIS services to the eight-county region. These services include specialized map preparation, spatial data collection and/or manipulation, as well as data analysis. These services can be used to augment aid applications, complete studies, or as a tool in other decision making processes.

Result: The Buckeye Hills Data Center received and filled 147 requests for data between July 1, 2003 and mid June 2004. Most of these requests were from Government agencies and/or entities seeking community profile information. Data Center Updates were also

produced and sent out bi-monthly via mail and email to all interested organizations, agencies, and individuals in the district.

Throughout the past year, the GIS department continued producing maps upon request for citizens, organizations, and leaders within the region. The GIS department also added to its data collection capabilities with the purchase of a sub meter accuracy GPS unit. This unit is being used to gather and capture data to be used in more specialized GIS projects. An Asset Management Program was started after the purchase of this unit, with the purpose of this program being to aid municipalities in locating, tracking, and recording the positions and conditions of assets under their control (waterlines, valves, fire hydrants, pumps, signage, etc) A small test project was completed in the Village of Chesterhill, Morgan County, with another slated for completion this summer. A large storm drainage-mapping project with the City of Belpre and the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation office is also currently underway.

ENHANCE TOURISM

Realizing that tourism is still a largely untapped resource for economic development in the region, the Development staff has increased the emphasis upon tourism as economic development in the region.

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: Through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, nearly \$2 Million was leveraged to protect valuable open space in Ohio Public Works District 18 through the direct purchase of land or through conservation easements. Buckeye Hills will continue to work with the NRAC, providing technical assistance.

ASSIST BUSINESSES TO STAY AND GROW

The Economic Development staff of Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District has carried on its mission of creation and retention of jobs in the region. It has accomplished this through various programs such as the Revolving Loan Fund Program; the Export Program; Industrial Site Creation; and the Industrial Site Web page.

Revolving Loan Fund

Buckeye Hills will provide low interest loan money to small businesses in the region using ARC, EDA, FmHA and CDBG funding. The loan funds are to act as the enhancement to existing businesses to expand and to assist new businesses wishing to locate in the region. This will lead to retention and creation of jobs within the region.

Result: Buckeye Hills has loaned \$250,000 over the last year which has resulted in the retention/creation of 24 jobs.

Trickle Up Program

Buckeye Hills will work with entrepreneurs to apply for grants through the Trickle Up Program. The Trickle Up Program is available to assist entrepreneurs in the purchase of tools, supplies, and raw materials needed to start their own business or expand their business to the next level. The program is targeted to the most economically disadvantaged sectors of the population in the BH-HVRDD region, and can assist a wide variety of businesses such as food processing, clothes making, crafts and retail enterprises. Buckeye Hills staff will meet with eligible applicants to assist them with the development of a business plan and help complete the application for the grant.

Result: Buckeye Hills worked with 23 entrepreneurs over the past year. Of those 23 entrepreneurs 2 have received their second check for \$200.00. The remaining 21 entrepreneurs received their first check for \$500.00. The total amount of grants that were awarded was \$10,900. Buckeye Hills staff will continue to meet with entrepreneurs and award grants.

INDUSTRIAL SITES

Community Facilities Survey

The Development staff, in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging at Buckeye Hills, continue to work on the Community Facility Survey, a document that will show what facilities and services exist in the region.

Result: This project is ongoing. Information from the previous survey has been updated with the latest in demographic information available, and additional local information is still being added. This revision of the Community Facility Survey focused on getting updated information concerning fire protection services, public water, and public sewer

services throughout the district. Medical information collected by the Area Agency on Aging within the past 2 years was added in to the document as well.

Marketing

Buckeye Hills will continue to use www.seovirtual.com to promote the areas available industrial sites and vacant buildings to businesses in the area and throughout the region. This website, along with the agency's website, www.buckeyehills.org, establishes Buckeye Hills' presence on the Internet, allowing potential clients/ businesses to gain information about Buckeye Hills' operations, programs, and resources.

Result: Buckeye Hills continued the operation and maintenance of these websites over the past year. These websites were both launched in mid 2001, and are still used as important means of transmitting information between the residents of the region, parties involved with our programs, community leaders, and the Buckeye Hills staff. Through the these websites we are able to exchange important scheduling information as well as provide, in a digital format, many of the necessary forms needed to apply for/ participate in our programs.

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 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.

Result: Improve the quality of life by cleaning up Brownfield's, demolishing existing buildings, upgrading infrastructure and redeveloping property.

Brownfields EPA

The staff will be working with the Ohio Department of Development on a joint venture to help the counties identify brownfields and apply for Phase I and Phase II grants. This program will enable communities to evaluate potential industrial/commercial sites to evaluate the properties' environmental conditions and determine if clean up will be necessary.

Result: The staff received applications for a Phase I site assessment. Three site will be selected by July 2004 to receive the Phase I site assessment grants. They also pre-qualified three environmental consulting firms. These firms were pre-selected, so that the communities receiving the Phase I site assessment grants may then select a firm from the pre-qualified list to perform the Phase I.

INCREASE PLANNING ACTIVITY

Good planning helps to insure identification of multiple resources, maximum beneficial impact of your project, political and citizen-based support for your project, and timely completion of your project.

State Planning Program

Staff has been working with the Governor's Regional Office and the Governor's Office of Appalachia in administering \$5,000-10,000 planning grants for small communities to plan improvement projects and build civic capacity.

Result: Thirty-one small communities have been awarded planning grants in our region in the last three years.

PEW

Buckeye Hills will be assisting Meigs County with the LeadershipPlenty Program developed through the Pew Partnership. This program works to develop community leaders, which, in turn, provides communities with more civic capacity. Buckeye Hills Staff is currently conducting the LeadershipPlenty Program in the Village of Middleport in Meigs County. The program in Middleport will be complete by December 2004

Result: The Village of Middleport is working on a Downtown Revitalization Strategy.

Geographic Information System Services (GIS)/Data Center Services

Buckeye Hills will continue to act as the Data Center for the eight-county region, providing timely demographic and economic data to public and private entities. Buckeye Hills will also provide GIS services to the eight-county region. These services include specialized map preparation, spatial data collection and/or manipulation, as well as data analysis. These services can be used to augment aid applications, complete studies, or as a tool in other decision making processes.

Result: The Buckeye Hills Data Center received and filled 147 requests for data between July 1, 2003 and mid June 2004. Most of these requests were from Government agencies and/or entities seeking community profile information. Data Center Updates were also produced and sent out bi-monthly via mail and email to all interested organizations, agencies, and individuals in the district.

Throughout the past year, the GIS department continued producing maps upon request for citizens, organizations, and leaders within the region. The GIS department also added to its data collection capabilities with the purchase of a sub meter accuracy GPS unit. This unit is being used to gather and capture data to be used in more specialized GIS projects. An Asset Management Program was started after the purchase of this unit, with the purpose of this program being to aid municipalities in locating, tracking, and recording the positions and conditions of assets under their control (waterlines, valves, fire hydrants, pumps, signage, etc) A small test project was completed in the Village of

Chesterhill, Morgan County, with another slated for completion this summer. A large storm drainage-mapping project with the City of Belpre and the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation office is also currently underway.

APPENDIX A

ADMINISTRATIVE

C. Boyer Simcox
Executive Director
Frederick Hindman
Assistant Executive Director
Douglas Dye
Director of Fiscal Operations

Brenda Wolfe
Secretary/Receptionist
Jenny McMahon
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DEVELOPMENT

Misty Casto
Development Director
Vacant
Business Development Coordinator
Vacant
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Brent Smith
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Bret Allphin
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Development Specialist
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Joetta Lane
Area Agency on Aging Director
Linda Myers
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Patricia Palmer
Home Care Director
Mechelle Adams
Program Development Coordinator
Glenda Collins
Clinical Supervisor
Jessica White
Long Term Care, Ombudsman Director
Rebecca Laughlin
Long Term Care, Ombudsman Volunteer
Cathy Ash
Trainer/ AAA
Tim Stutler
Fiscal Manager
Mindy Cayton
Fiscal Assistant
Marie Hunsaker
Clinical Supervisor
Joni Gheen
Clinical Staff
Vicki Bennett
Clinical Staff
Jane Skeen
Clinical Operations
Stacy Strahler
Secretary/Receptionist
Misty Anderson
Clinical Assistant
Kara Paulus
Clinical Staff
Veronica Norman
Clinical Staff
Jamie Stropkai
Clinical Staff
Kimberly Steed
Clinical Staff
Teresa Porter
Clinical Staff

Charlotte Riggs
Clinical Assistant
Denise Keyes
Clinical Assistant
Kellie Cunningham
MIS Operator
James Lewis
MIS Manager
Nancy Morris
Quality Improvement Manager
Darlene Vandine
Caregiver Advocate
Alta Coffman
Clinical Staff
Kimberly Veyon
Clinical Staff
Sarah Swisher
Clinical Staff
Marcia Fisher
Clinical Staff
Christina Horn
Clinical Staff
Deborah Brown
Planner/AAA
Sarah Hanlon
Clinical Staff
Kay Brammer
Clinical Staff
Lisa Barringer
Clinical Staff
Sandy Cisler
Clinical Staff
Patti Henninger
Clinical Staff
Jennifer Fuller
Clinical Staff
Helen Slack
Clinical Staff

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

2004 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	

CEDS 2004

Table Appendix/ Source List

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- Table 3.03- Population by Age Group (2000). U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 SF-3
- Table 3.04- Population Percentage by Race (2002). ‘Ohio County Indicators 2004’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, August 2004
- Table 3.05- Vital Statistics 2002. ‘Ohio County Profiles 2003’, Department of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development
- Table 3.06- IRS Net Migration Flows: 1989-2002. ‘Ohio County Indicators 2004’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, August 2004
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- Table 3.15- 1998 Business Expansions and Attractions. ‘Ohio Site Selection List 1997, 1998 & 1999’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, March 1999
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- Table 3.17- 2000 Business Expansions and Attractions. ‘Private Investment 2000’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, January 2003
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- Table 3.22- Total Government Procurement Awards, 1995-2001. ‘Ohio County Indicators 2002’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, July 2002
- Table 3.23- Regional Labor Force. <http://lmi.state.oh.us/ASP/LAUS./vblaus.asp> , Ohio Labor Market Information, Ohio Job & Family Services in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Table 3.24- Regional Employment by Industrial Sector. ‘Ohio County Profiles 2003’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, January 2003
- Table 3.25- Regional Average Weekly Earnings by Industrial Sector. ‘Ohio County Profiles 2002’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, January 2002
- Table 3.26- Regional Components of Business Change. ‘Ohio County Indicators 2004’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, August 2004
- Table 3.27- Athens County Civilian Labor Force.
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- Table 3.29- Athens County Average Weekly Earnings by Industrial Sector. ‘Ohio County Profiles 2002’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, January 2002
- Table 3.30- Athens County Components of Business Change. ‘Ohio County Indicators 2004’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, August 2004
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- Table 3.32- Hocking County Employment by Sector. ‘Ohio County Profiles 2003’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, January 2003
- Table 3.33- Hocking County Average Weekly Earnings by Industrial Sector. ‘Ohio County Profiles 2002’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, January 2002
- Table 3.34- Hocking County Components of Business Change. ‘Ohio County Indicators 2004’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, August 2004

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- Table 3.38- Hocking County Components of Business Change. 'Ohio County Indicators 2004', Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, August 2004
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- Table 3.42- Monroe Components of Business Change. 'Ohio County Indicators 2004', Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, August 2004
- Table 3.43- Morgan County Civilian Labor Force.
<http://lmi.state.oh.us/ASP/LAUS./vblaus.asp>, Ohio Labor Market Information, Ohio Job & Family Services in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics
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