

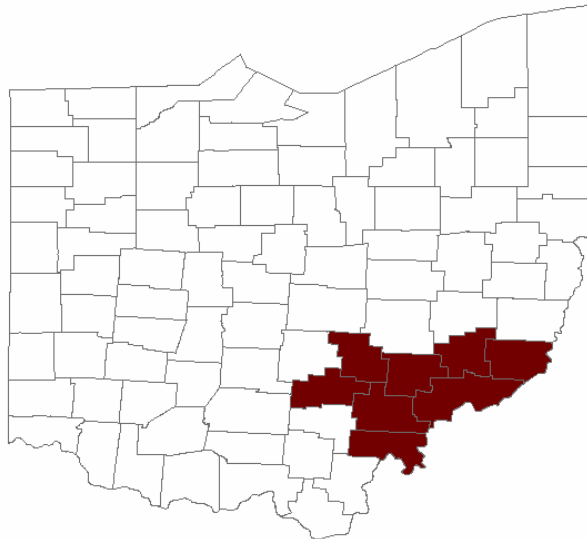


Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley
Regional Development District

2006-2007

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

Annual Report



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

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:

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

Prepared for:

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

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Co-Executive
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FORWARD

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

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

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

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

Comments on this report may be addressed to:

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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.

2006-2007 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	Rick Hindman Director- Area Agency on Aging Region 8
Economic and Business Development Organizations	Darlene Lukshin Governors Regional Economic Development Representative – Region 11
Economic and Business Development Organizations	Tina Meunier Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund Coordinator
Employment and Training Sector	John Curtis Monroe County
Public Leadership	Ron Moore President, Morgan County Commissioners
Public Leadership	Mark Forni President, Monroe County Commissioners
Community Organizations	Jim Coutts Appalachian Nutrition Network
Community Organizations	J.T. Kneen Moxahala Watershed Coordinator
Economic and Business Development Organizations	Mike Jacoby Director, Southeastern Ohio Port Authority
Economic and Business Development Organizations	Mike Lloyd Comm. Econ. Dev./ OSU Extension - Noble
Economic and Business Development Organizations	Perry Varnadoe Meigs County Economic Development Director
Economic and Business Development Organizations	Lou Stein Monroe County Economic Development Director

Economic and Business Peg Grannis
Development Organizations Director, Perry County CIC

Economic and Business Jen Simon
Development Organizations Director, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce

Economic and Business Terry Tamburini
Development Organizations Comm. Econ. Dev./ OSU Extension- Wash.

Buckeye Hills - HVRDD Bret Allphin
Representative GIS Specialist/Development Specialist

***Note: Due to an administrative change in the EDA grant period which Buckeye Hills operates within, not all of the participating members listed above were still in office when this document was finalized.**



CHAPTER I

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Buckeye Hills Mission Statement:

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

Organizational History:

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

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

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

Staff Structure

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

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

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

CEDS Advisory Committee

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

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

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

CEDS Planning Process

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

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

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

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

1. Organize the CEDS Committee.

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

As required by EDA, the CEDS document was completely updated and re-written for 2005. In the past several years of receiving EDA planning grants, the CEDS document had been due in September; however in our most recent planning grant, our CEDS submission date was changed to June. Due to this change, a CEDS document was not submitted in September 2006, however the project listing was updated, and a resolution extending the current CEDS was passed by the Buckeye Hills General Policy Council. This document is an annual report based on the re-written 2005 CEDS.

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 2006, the staff at Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District administered the following programs:

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

I. CEDS Update

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) helps state and federal officials make effective area investment decisions. The planning process includes meeting with the CEDS Advisory Committee and analyzing changes in the area's economy. The CEDS document was re-written and submitted in September 2005. Due to a change in grant period, there was no submission of a CEDS document in September 2006. This is the second of the five year CEDS period, and the first Annual Report based on the 2005 CEDS

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

The basic work elements of FY'06 CEDS Update were as follows:

- The staff held two planning sessions during the summer of 2006 with the Advisory Committee; notes and discussions from these meetings can be found in the appendix. Since no CEDS was submitted in September, no subsequent committee meetings were held since no new document was produced prior to this report.
- In order to analyze environmental changes that might affect the CEDS document, the staff compiled any recent changes to demographic and economic information for the district,. This data was compiled and is presented in the analysis and statistical chapters (Chapter III) of the 2007 CEDS.
- An updated project list has been compiled and included in this CEDS document.

This completed CEDS report will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration by June 30, 2007.

II. EDA Final Rule Compliance

The staff of Buckeye Hills has been aware of the EDA Interim Final Rule since its inception. Since the release of the final provisions, Buckeye Hills has been working to ensure that our Governing Board and General Policy Council are in compliance with EDA regulations.

Buckeye Hills has made the appropriate changes to the governing board/ general policy council in order to be in compliance with all provisions of the recently adopted EDA Final Rule.

III. Provision of Timely Employment Data to EDA/EDR

In conjunction with our traditional data center services, Buckeye Hills also provides pertinent employment and/or unemployment information for the region to the Economic Development Representative. Such data would include information concerning any potential plant openings or closings, or any other event that would have a noticeable impact on the employment situation in the district. Buckeye Hills currently has a notification process in place. Between July 1, 2006 and May 29, 2007, we received one notification of an employment event that would prompt the attention of the EDR. Information concerning this event was passed on to our EDR, Mr. Robert Hickey.

IV. Technical Assistance

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

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

Total costs for projects completed over the past year was approximately **\$31** million, with local and private sources leveraging nearly **\$15.5** million (50%) against the **\$15.5** million (50%) provided through state and federal funding sources such as EDA, ARC, EPA and CDBG.

Village of Middleport Downtown Revitalization

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

Staff members are working the Village to submit the CDBG Downtown Revitalization Grant Application that is due in 2007.

Other Planning Activities

The staff of Buckeye Hills also provided input as members of advisory boards for several other transportation or tourism projects such as the North Muskingum River Corridor Advisory Group, Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board, SR 32/78 Corridor Advisory Board, and the ARC US 50/ SR 32 Corridor Advisory Board.

The North Muskingum River Corridor Study is still underway. ODOT and other bodies have been searching for funding to continue this study. This project may not continue to move forward with much activity in the near future. There is a lack of available funding at the state level to continue this study. Until other transportation projects are “caught up,” the current studies may be completed and held until funding becomes available.

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

The SR 32/78 Corridor Advisory Board continues to move ahead with the study of this entire artery which crosses our district east to west. This study is being led by McCormick Taylor of Columbus Ohio. Buckeye Hills representatives will continue participating in this study until it is completed. Estimated study completion date is November 2007.

Buckeye Hills staff will continue to serve on the ARC US 50/ SR 32 Corridor Advisory Board, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, the local development district to the west is leading this endeavor and has applied to ARC for additional funds to complete this study.

Intergovernmental Review

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

Buckeye Hills continues to act as the Regional Clearinghouse. Buckeye Hills Staff reviewed 26 projects during fiscal year 2006.

V. Water & Sewer

West Malta Water Project

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

The CDBG Application was approved with construction scheduled to begin in the summer of 2007.

Reno Water Project

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

Staff will assist the Washington County Commissioners is applying for CDBG Water and Sewer Funds. The CDBG application will be submitted in July 2007.

Noble County Water

Buckeye Hills will assist the Noble County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Noble County Water Authority. The project will extend water lines to serve approximately 36 residents along Ohio State Route 285 between the villages of Caldwell and Sarahsville creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$628,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 4.5 miles of water line and services approximately 36 homes. The project will promote positive community growth.

Staff will continue to assist the Noble County Commissioners in obtaining CDBG Water and Sewer Funds. The CDBG application will be submitted in July 2007.

Bishopville Water Project

Buckeye Hills assisted and will continue to assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to areas of Union Township. The project involves the installation of 30,028 linear feet of 6” main water line, 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.

The CDBG Application was approved with construction scheduled to begin in the summer of 2007.

Amesville Decentralized Wastewater Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Village of Amesville in applying for CDBG Water and Sewer funding for a Decentralized Wastewater Project which will serve 84 structures within the village. The project involves the installation of 9,500 linear feet of sewer line, 25 home treatment units, 39 private taps, and seven other clustered treatment sites.

The CDBG Application was submitted and approved with construction scheduled to begin in the summer of 2007.

VI. CDBG Formula Allocation

Washington County Formula -2005

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY’2005, assisting the grantee by assuring that the seven projects within Washington County, and one project for the City of Belpre comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners.

Buckeye Hills administered eight (8) projects for the FY 2005 Formula Program. The total project cost for the eight (8) projects was \$269,323. The projects ranged from the purchase of equipment for parks and recreation, building a community room, and purchase of fire equipment. The total number of beneficiaries was approximately 10,984.

Washington County Formula -2006

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

Buckeye Hills submitted the application for funding and the Washington County Commissioners received a grant agreement. The total project cost for the eight (8) projects will total \$224,812. The projects will vary from parks and recreation, to fire equipment, and public rehabilitation. The total number of beneficiaries was approximately 4,177 individuals.

Morgan County Formula – 2005

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Morgan County Formula Program for FY'2005, 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.

Buckeye Hills Staff is working with the Morgan County Commissioners to administer six (6) projects totaling an estimated \$124,424. The total number of beneficiaries will be approximately 4,532 individuals.

VII. State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program

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

applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various SCIP/LTIP programs.

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

VIII. Conservation Activities

Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program

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

Buckeye Hills Staff Assisted the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) in preparing applications to be submitted to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding.

IX. Brownfield Revitalization

Brownfields

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

Staff is presently working with three communities to apply for Clean Ohio Assistance Funds.

Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program

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

One community intends to submit an application for Clean Ohio Revitalization Funds. That application is due later this year.

X. Geographical Information Systems

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

During fiscal year 2006, Buckeye Hills continued to advertise and promote its GIS and GPS capabilities to community development professionals, economic development professionals, units of local government, public service providers (i.e. water companies), as well as media and non profit companies within the district. Our purpose in this regard is to assist in creating or finding new project opportunities in the region. Several new projects were identified during the grant period.

- Buckeye Hills staff continued to provide many hours of technical assistance and advice to the Morgan County Engineering Department as they continue work to establish a functioning GIS within their county.
- Buckeye Hills staff also forged a relationship with the Hocking College GIS department, as both parties are currently working on a potential water line/ water appurtenance data collection project for the West Malta Rural Water District in Morgan County.

- Buckeye Hills staff is currently serving on the Hocking College GIS advisory board. The purpose of this board is to help Hocking College establish academic and external experience curriculums that will help GIS program graduates be prepared for entry into the field of spatial data collection and analysis.
- Buckeye Hills staff was contacted by the City of Marietta Greenspace Committee to provide GIS data and analysis to a project aimed at identifying and acquiring publicly held parcels that may be used for trails/parks/green space areas within the City of Marietta.

Late in 2005, Buckeye Hills formed a GIS user group, with the purpose of bringing together any local constituents who are undertaking GIS activities or projects with GIS components. This group is composed of roughly 20 members from many different fields and industries throughout the district. The GIS users group serves as a forum where individuals can ask questions, share project information, and hear information from local experts. This group holds meetings at the Buckeye Hills offices in Reno, Ohio. Meetings are not regularly scheduled, they are held on an 'as needed/as demanded' basis. The goal of this body is to meet a minimum of twice annually.

During the most recent GIS user groups meetings, OGRIP, the GIS body for the State of Ohio, held an outreach meeting at the Buckeye Hills office. The meeting was attended by GIS professionals from throughout the state. Buckeye Hills also hosted a regional meeting for the upcoming Ohio Statewide Imagery Program (OSIP) with OGRIP and Woolpert Inc. on September 12, 2006.

The GIS department at Buckeye Hills has also recently entered in to a series of agreements with Washington County (Ohio), and the City of Marietta for GIS coordination/data update services. Buckeye Hills' staff completed an initial project to convert existing engineering, physical, infrastructure, and natural resource data into GIS compatible format, usable by staff and other users throughout the county. Buckeye Hills also aided officials from the City of Marietta and Washington County in securing services from an Ohio firm to provide updated software for GIS users throughout the county. As of this report Buckeye Hills staff is heading up efforts in the to deploy this recently purchased software to various departments within the City of Marietta, as well as several Washington County entities. Other responsibilities include providing staff training for the use and operation of this new software. As an ongoing activity Buckeye Hills staff will oversee updates to the various data sets identified by the City of Marietta and Washington County. This service provided by Buckeye Hills fostered high levels of coordination between local, city and county officials as they moved ahead with their pre-existing GIS initiatives.

During fiscal year 2006, Buckeye Hills continued to provide specialized map products on request to interested parties throughout the region. Examples of requesting bodies are; Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District, Monroe County Office of Economic Development, Marietta College Senior Business Consulting Class, local EMA offices, private engineers, ODOT, and private citizens. Spatial data, or other GIS maps and related data were the most requested information from the Buckeye Hills Data Center; composing 41% of the total requests (49 of 120).

XI. Regional Promotion

The Buckeye Hills staff continued to promote the economic development opportunities and activities throughout the region between July 1, 2006, and May 29, 2007. The purpose of our promotional activities is to attract new business and private investment to our eight-county district.

During the summer of 2006 the Buckeye Hills agency website underwent a complete renovation project. The purpose of this project was to completely update the existing website, and to combine the available building and commercial property functionality found on another Buckeye Hills website, seovirtual.com.

The new website has been well received, as not only did the agency get a renewed presence on the web, but this new website has the ‘available building and site’ functionality that is contained on our companion website www.seovirtual.com. Users can now utilize the Buckeye Hills website (www.buckeyehills.org) to find information on all of our available programming, publications, data, and staff, as well as browse available commercial properties and buildings throughout the region. Our website has received over 236,000 hits between July 1, 2006 and May 29, 2007; averaging 711 hits per day during that time.

The staff of Buckeye Hills also participated in a tourism development project initiated by the ARC and led by Fahlgren, a consulting firm from Columbus, Ohio. The goal of the project was to increase tourism in the distressed Appalachian counties of Athens, Jackson, Meigs, Pike, and Vinton counties in southern Ohio. The goal of this body is to create a sustainable tourism/marketing product that will utilize local efforts as well as state and federal resources. The final product was called the ‘Appalachian Adventure Trail’, a trail highlighting historical sites, local crafts, and other local sites of interest.

The project secured a number of initial sponsors, and was able to fund a brochure and a website (url unknown at this time) which is expected to be up and running in the very near future. At the current time this project is seeking additional sponsors/donors to help sustain this project and keep it moving forward in to the future.

Monroe County Economic Development

In October 2006, Buckeye Hills was awarded a contract to administer the Economic Development Office and related activities of Monroe County, Ohio. Staff of Buckeye Hills is charged with the task of hiring new staff for this office, while continuing the operation of its existing programs and endeavors. Members of the Buckeye Hills staff are also providing technical assistance to the Economic Development office by aiding in grant and loan application preparation, providing extended data center and information technology services, and establishing new standard operating procedures which will ultimately benefit staff production in this office.

As a result of this program Buckeye Hills was able to achieve some positive overall results in Monroe County. A grant writer was hired to the staff located in the Black Walnut Center in Woodsfield Ohio. During the times prior to this activity by Buckeye Hills there was no long-term grant writer on staff. Buckeye Hills was also able to secure grant funding to help finish the remaining flooring of the Black Walnut Center in Woodsfield. These funds will allow this facility to be completely finished and available for rent or lease by businesses or other tenants. (The ‘Monroe Multi-Tenant Building’ was an EDA public works project in 2001.)

Communications Director Position

During this time Buckeye Hills also established a ‘communications director’ position within the development department, to improve our communication and coordination with local media outlets of all types. This new staff person is a resident of Monroe County and has been providing extensive coordination and technical assistance services to the Economic Development program in Monroe County. Overall the addition of this staff position is something Buckeye Hills has been working toward for a number of years, and we anticipate heavy utilization of this staff person’s expertise in the future.

The communications director has spent extensive time acting as a media contact in Monroe County during the administration of the Economic Development contract. The first major project was the complete redesign and re-launch of the Monroe County Economic Development & Tourism website (www.monroecountyohio.net). Numerous press releases and other news related items have been generated, released, and published in media outlets across the district, in regards to Buckeye Hills programming and other aspects of our operation.

XII. Business Assistance Programs/ Entrepreneurial Support Programs

Revolving Loan Fund/ Trickle Up Grant Program

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

During fiscal year 2006, the Revolving Loan Fund closed eight loans, with \$744,073 in total loan assistance provided, and 66.5 jobs created and 24 retained.

The Trickle Up grant program gave assistance to nine businesses within the region, with a total potential grant amount of \$6,300. Each grant is composed of two installments; the first being \$500, the second installment of \$200 is contingent on the completion of a business report after 3 months of operation. The total amount a recipient could receive is \$700. (The total grant listed in this paragraph is an estimation based on the assumption that all grantees will complete the necessary items to receive the full \$700.) To help inform our constituents about this program, a media campaign was launched in spring 2007.

To supplement both of these entrepreneurial support endeavors, Buckeye Hills launched the Appalachianmarket.com (www.appalachianmarket.com) website during the spring of 2006. This website allows grantees from the Trickle Up program the opportunity to market and sell their crafts on a highly visible, professionally created and maintained website. This is an outstanding chance for these locally owned small businesses to market their products to people throughout the region, and the world. Without this program these businesses would most likely not have the opportunity to sell their products on the World Wide Web.

XIII. Data Center

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

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

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

- The production of census maps for specific community and business applications.
- The preparation of reports depicting area wide community characteristics.

- The preparation of specialized mapping products which can illustrate any of the data contained in the Buckeye Hills Data Center.

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

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

Below is a summary of data requests for Fiscal Year 2006.

**Data Requests
Ranked by Number of Requests**

Organization	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Government	90	75.00%
Priv. Citizen	9	7.50%
Comm. Org/ Non. Prof.	8	6.67%
Business	7	5.83%
Acad./ Research	6	5.00%
Totals	120	

Type of Request	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Other GIS Map	28	23.33%
Census/GIS Map	21	17.50%
Population	20	16.67%
Community Prof.	19	15.83%
Misc.	17	14.17%
Income	7	5.83%
Labor Force	7	5.83%
Housing	1	0.83%
Totals	120	

The Data Center received 120 requests between July 1, 2006 and May 29, 2007. Services requests came from community organizations, private citizens, businesses, academic/ research bodies, and local units of government. Over seventy-five percent of the requests came from government agencies. Custom GIS map documents and related data were the most requested data from all parties during this time period, representing 49 of the 120 total requests (41%).

CHAPTER III
REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Constituency

Population profile

Table 3.01 Population Change 1980-2000					
	Census			Percentage Change	
	1980	1990	2000	1980-1990	1990-2000
Ohio	10,797,604	10,847,115	11,353,140	0.5	3.8
BHHVRDD	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
Miegs	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 (2006)								
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	% Change
Ohio	11,353,140	11,501,180	11,666,854	11,816,168	12,005,733	12,164,199	12,317,613	8.50%
BHHVRDD	255,000	260,638	263,855	269,048	269,257	270,723	270,106	5.92%
Athens	62,223	63,967	64,535	67,207	66,003	66,576	66,337	6.61%
Hocking	28,241	28,873	29,839	30,298	31,001	31,195	31,496	11.53%
Meigs	23,072	23,503	23,687	23,962	23,989	24,047	23,834	3.30%
Monroe	15,180	14,757	14,800	14,384	14,277	13,762	13,485	-11.17%
Morgan	14,897	15,203	15,198	15,274	15,123	14,962	14,618	-1.87%
Noble	14,058	14,728	15,365	15,843	16,277	16,486	16,690	18.72%
Perry	34,078	35,717	36,923	38,431	39,502	40,935	41,993	23.23%
Washington	63,251	63,890	63,508	63,649	63,085	62,760	61,653	-2.53%

Based on the population information above, the Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District Region is projected to have an overall population increase of over 15,000 people by the year 2030, a 5.9 percent increase from the 2000 Census. The greatest population gains are projected in Perry, Noble, and Hocking Counties, with the biggest losses foreseen in Monroe and Washington Counties.

	Total	0-4	5-14	15-19	20-24	15-44	25-64	65-84	15+	65+	85+
BHHVRDD	256,953	14,272	31,018	22,090	22,901	114,251	133,570	29,760	211,663	34,102	4,342
Athens	63,187	3,050	5,843	7,753	8,412	36,339	32,182	5,188	54,294	5,947	759
Hocking	28,838	1,821	3,898	1,924	2,008	11,662	15,459	3,329	23,119	3,728	399
Meigs	23,286	1,420	2,846	2,567	1,649	9,250	12,265	3,071	19,020	3,539	468
Monroe	15,063	771	1,800	1,009	1,008	5,559	7,849	2,272	12,492	2,626	354
Morgan	14,941	886	2,006	1,031	1,100	5,823	7,570	2,036	12,049	2,348	312
Noble	14,021	679	1,569	988	1,515	6,664	7,367	1,670	11,773	1,903	233
Perry	35,040	2,245	5,304	2,488	2,633	14,567	18,112	3,673	27,491	4,258	585
Washington	62,577	3,400	7,752	4,330	4,576	24,387	32,766	8,521	51,425	9,753	1,232

Table 3.03 shows us the breakdown of population in the Buckeye Hills region by age cohort. As could be expected, the 25-64 cohort is the most populous, followed by 15-44. Also of note is the population in the 65+ and 85+ cohorts. Together, these numbers compose nearly 15 percent of the total population of the district.

	Total Population	Native					Two or More Races	Total Minorities**
		White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Hawaiian & Oth. Pac. Isl.		
Ohio	11,459,011	9,768,243	1,362,446	26,025	159,094	3,556	139,647	1,911,626
BHHVRDD	256,953	247,945	4,158	662	1,834	26	2,328	10,561
Athens	63,187	59,426	1,440	203	1,367	4	747	4,355
Hocking	28,838	28,115	284	81	50	0	308	879
Meigs	23,286	22,812	212	41	47	0	174	593
Monroe	15,063	14,911	40	19	13	3	77	208
Morgan	14,941	14,029	515	41	12	0	344	970
Noble	14,021	13,022	935	40	19	0	5	1,070
Perry	35,040	34,606	91	92	41	2	208	610
Washington	62,577	61,024	641	145	285	17	465	1,876

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

Table 3.04 illustrates the racial makeup of the population in the eight-county district based on 2004 population estimates. 96.49 percent of the population was ‘White’, and 1.61 percent was ‘Black’. The other racial categories and multi racial designations make up the small remainder. Of the total population in the region, 4.11 percent were minority, up slightly from 2003.

Performance Measures

People

	Total Births	Rate (1,000)	Teen Birth	Rate (1,000)*	Deaths	Rate (1,000)	Marriages	Rate (1,000)	Divorces	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	2,964	11.8	370	42.3	2,551	10.3	1,862	7.3	1,154	4.5
Athens	641	10.1	71	16.9	495	7.8	370	5.9	241	3.8
Hocking	377	13.2	62	64.2	306	10.7	228	8	158	5.6
Meigs	302	13.1	56	70.4	263	11.4	203	8.8	116	5
Monroe	161	10.8	20	39.9	154	10.3	110	7.3	65	4.3
Morgan	180	12.2	24	45.3	170	11.5	109	7.3	67	4.5
Noble	153	10.9	11	22.8	145	10.3	85	6.1	43	3.1
Perry	445	12.9	54	45.5	328	9.5	236	6.9	157	4.6
Washington	705	11.3	72	33.7	690	11	521	8.3	307	4.9

* Rate of births in teens
15-19

The table above shows personal vital statistics for the constituents of the region. The Buckeye Hills region had a birth rate of 11.8 in 2003, behind the state figure of 13.3. However the region's teen birth rate has fallen slightly to 42.3, slightly lower than the state. Our region also continues to surpass the state rates of deaths and divorces. Hocking County led the way with the highest birth rate (13.2); Meigs County had the highest teen birth rate (70.4). Morgan County came in with the highest death rate (11.5). Meigs County had the highest marriage rate in 2003 (8.8). At the time of this report (June 2007), more recent vital statistics had not been released.

	91--92	92--93	93--94	94--95	95--96	96--97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	Net 91- 04
BHHVRDD	950	1,462	765	1,038	915	71	-229	-320	39	-138	122	645	17	5,173
Athens	-76	212	-129	6	65	-44	-1	-163	211	-136	61	276	-149	310
Hocking	361	352	245	363	240	122	110	153	23	191	164	89	74	2,372
Meigs	131	257	250	314	77	20	-15	54	-96	-13	91	27	-58	1,012
Monroe	-55	-128	-52	24	7	-1	71	62	0	28	-78	-17	48	-133
Morgan	91	62	81	95	-19	-29	6	-28	44	34	-26	48	94	431
Noble	23	101	23	141	122	155	23	38	73	-48	15	57	-23	682
Perry	244	282	196	134	441	103	-99	-99	35	55	29	186	14	1,470
Washington	231	324	151	-39	-18	-255	-324	-337	-251	-249	-134	-21	17	-971

Table 3.06 shows the net migration of each county in the district from 1991 to 2004. Migration can be caused by many factors; in most cases these numbers are influenced by proximity to local job markets (i.e. people commuting in or out of a county to find work.), or proximity to a major transportation artery. The largest net gain was seen in

Hocking County (2,372), while Washington County continued to suffer the biggest loss (-971).

Employment

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

Table 3.07 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 due to the presence of Ohio University in Athens.

Income

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

Table 3.08 illustrates the per capita income of counties within the region as compared to the state and federal levels over the period from 2000 to 2005. In 2005 the average per capita income for the Buckeye Hills district was \$21,791; which was \$10,069 below the state average and \$12,680 below the national average. As you can see by comparing the years shown, this gap between the BHHVRDD average and the state and national averages continues to grow. Over this six-year span, Noble County had the lowest average annual per capita income in the region at \$16,848.33.

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

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

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

With the exception of Washington County, the district clearly has the lowest per capita incomes in the state.

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

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

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

Table 3.10 below shows us poverty rates in selected age cohorts. This table shows us some alarmingly high poverty rates in very sensitive areas, especially related children under the age of 18.

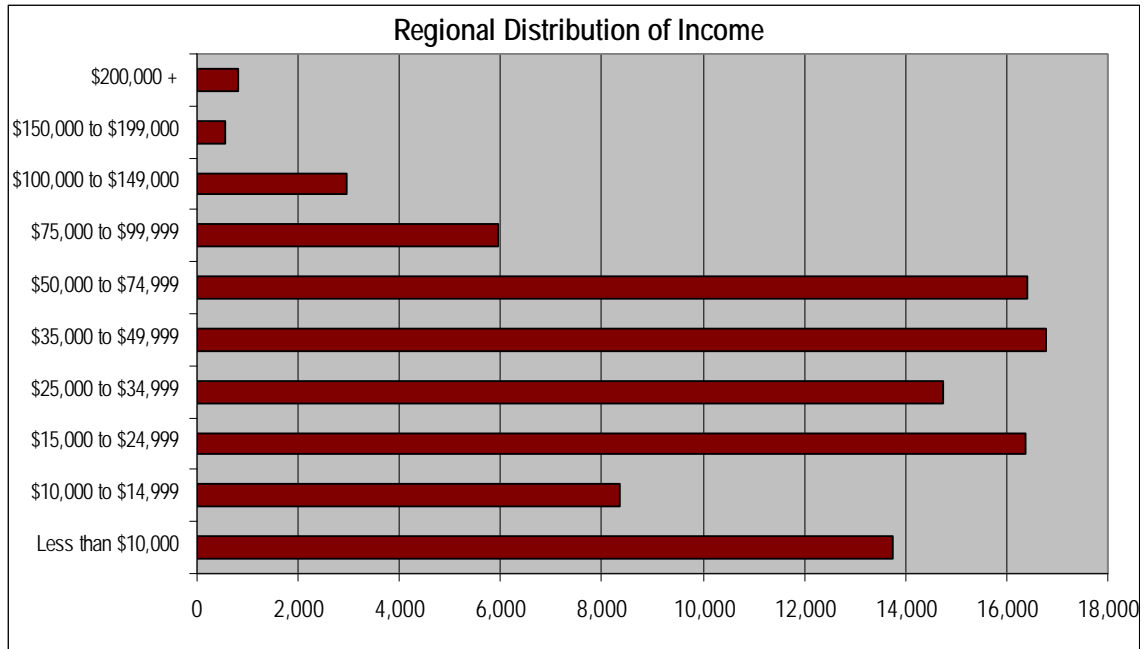
	All	Related Children Under 18	18+	65+
Ohio	10.6	14	10.9	8.1
BHHVRDD	16.0	18.9	14.8	12.6
Athens	27.4	21.2	28.8	12.9
Hocking	13.5	15.8	12.6	14.5
Meigs	19.8	26.3	17.7	14.5
Monroe	13.9	18.3	12.5	11.4
Morgan	18.4	25.1	16.1	12.4
Noble	11.4	13.9	10.3	11.9
Perry	11.8	15.2	10.3	12.7
Washington	11.4	15.7	9.9	10.2

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

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

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

(Continued on Next Page)



Quality of Life

Table 3.12 - Housing Units in 2000

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

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

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

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

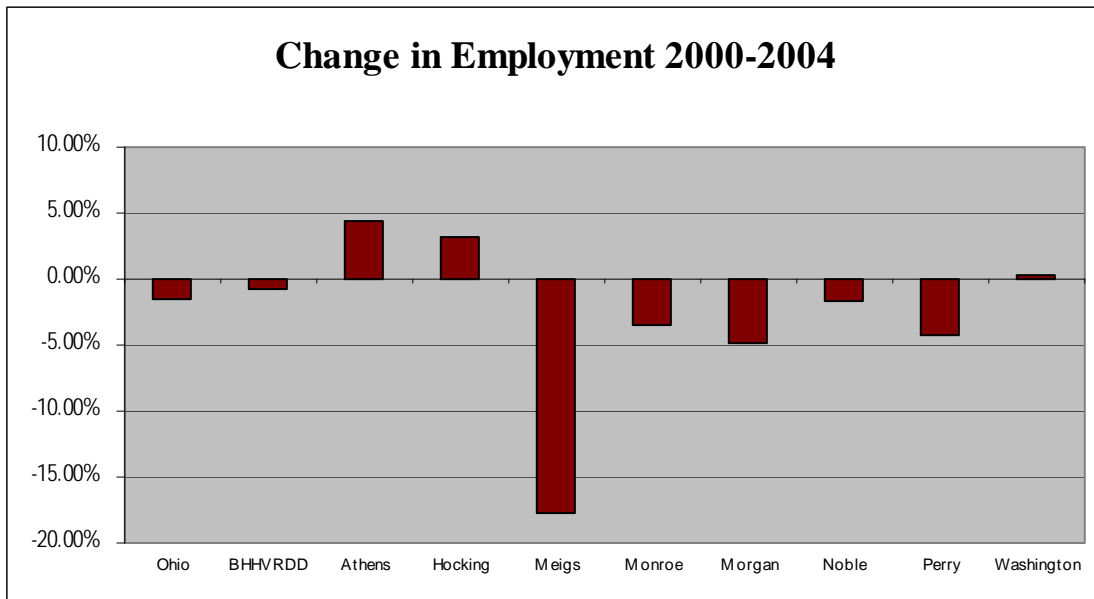
Economic Structure

Jobs

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Changes: 00-04	
						Num.	Pct.
Ohio	6,835,688	6,759,196	6,693,278	6,674,406	6,733,238	-102,450	-1.50%
BHHVRDD	106,622	105,294	106,811	106,373	105,849	-773	-0.72%
Athens	27,910	28,030	28,415	28,707	29,150	1,240	4.44%
Hocking	9,754	9,804	9,927	9,944	10,063	309	3.17%
Meigs	7,796	7,489	6,881	6,467	6,418	-1,378	-17.68%
Monroe	7,392	7,313	7,337	7,517	7,137	-255	-3.45%
Morgan	5,934	5,860	5,878	5,737	5,642	-292	-4.92%
Noble	5,039	5,034	5,052	4,933	4,954	-85	-1.69%
Perry	10,115	9,582	9,800	9,769	9,688	-427	-4.22%
Washington	32,682	32,182	33,521	33,299	32,797	115	0.35%

Table 3.14 shows the changes in full and part time employment positions between 2000 and 2004. During that time the state has experienced a decrease in full and part time employment by 1.5 percent. The Buckeye Hills region has experienced a decrease of .72 percent over the same period. The state experienced highs in employment during 2000. During this period 5 of the 8 counties saw overall losses in both forms of employment. Meigs County experienced the biggest loss, seeing their total full and part time

employment decrease by 17.68 percent. The chart below illustrates the overall changes from 2000 to 2004.



Private Investment

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

For the first time in the last several years, Washington and Athens Counties were not at the top of the list of business expansions in the year 2000. Monroe and Morgan Counties saw several large businesses develop in their counties over the course of 2000. Washington County did see two extremely large projects come to the county, as two new power plants were announced and funded. Total disclosed investment for these expansions and attractions was \$524,078,000. 646 jobs were created or retained as a result of these investments.

County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Athens	Starr Machine	Nelsonville	Machine Shop	13		30,000
Athens	TS Trim	Athens	Motor Vehicle Seating	1	\$2,300,000	
Hocking	International Panel Group	Logan	Wood Panels	35	\$6,600,000	35,000
Hocking	Smead Manufacturing Co	Logan	Paper products		\$4,500,000	90,000
Monroe	Central Mine	Sunbury Twp	Coal	500		
Monroe	Monroe County CIC	Woodsfield	Spec. Building		\$1,200,000	23,000
Perry	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 continued to be the regional leaders, with 8 expansions/ attractions between them. There were two large attractions to note, Central Mine in Monroe County with 500 jobs created, and Interactive Teleservices in Washington County with 300 jobs created. Total disclosed investments for these expansions and attractions were \$41,012,000. 957 jobs were created or retained as a result of these projects.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Ohio	3,090	2,810	2,635	2,602	2,607	2,579
BHHVRDD	10	13	7	5	6	6
Athens	0	2	1	0	0	1
Hocking	0	2	1	0	1	1
Meigs	1	0	0	1	0	0
Monroe	3	2	0	1	0	0
Morgan	2	0	2	0	0	0
Noble	0	0	0	1	0	2
Perry	1	1	0	0	1	0
Washington	3	6	3	2	4	2

(Note: All 2006 site selections totals had not been released at the time of this report.)

The site selection totals show that this region of Ohio has a disproportionately small number of project sites selected, in comparison to the number selected for the entire state. During any of the 6 years listed above, the entire region did not make up for more than .4 percent of the total of site selection projects within the state.

(Note: Tables 3.15 to 3.21 represent only projects that meet the following requirements, as defined by the Ohio Department Of Development – Office of Strategic Research: \$1,000,000 minimum investment OR, square footage of 20,000 or more OR, creation of 50 or more jobs.)

Public Investment (Procurement)

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

Table 3.23 illustrates total government procurement awards from 2000 to 2004. The two most populous counties, Athens and Washington, consistently lead the region in Procurement Awards over this time span; they also have the highest yearly averages of Government Procurement Award dollars. Noble and Hocking Counties constituted the lowest amounts in the region, with Noble County having over sixteen times less in Government Procurement dollars than Athens County in 2004.

Regional Labor Profile

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Ohio 2006
Civilian Labor Force	110,300	109,700	110,400	112,800	120,400	119,400	120,000	5,934,000
Employment	102,700	103,600	103,300	104,100	111,300	110,400	112,100	5,609,100
Unemployment	7,400	6,100	7,100	8,700	9,300	8,900	7,900	324,900
Unemployment Rate	8.2	7.1	8.1	9.8	8.6	8.6	7.6	5.5

Table 3.24 presents us with the historical labor force data for our region. As you can see, the unemployment rate in our district has been very irregular between 2000 and 2006. The low regional average was 7.1 percent in 2001, while the high was 9.8 percent in 2003. During each of these years, the regional unemployment has been substantially higher than the corresponding state and national averages and in some cases nearly double.

Growth in the civilian labor force had been minimal in the region, with only a 3,000-person increase from 1995-2003, but in 2004 the region saw its largest civilian labor force in the past 10 years (120,400), growing by 7,600 from 2003 to 2004. This number tailed off slightly in 2005, but reached the 120,000 level again in 2006. The growing number of individuals in the civilian labor force also corresponded to a higher number of individuals being employed, reaching a high of 112,100 in 2006.

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

Table 3.25 shows us the regional employment by industrial (NAICS) sector from 2000 to 2005. (Note: At the time of this report, information for 2006 was not available.) The biggest gain (431) was in the ‘administrative and waste service’ sector. Note the huge losses experienced in the manufacturing sector. In 2006 there were 4,130 less manufacturing jobs in the region than there were in 2000.

(Continued on Next Page)

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

Table 3.25 shows the average weekly wages for the recorded industries of employment. The ‘federal government’ sector saw the largest increase in average weekly wages at \$145.40. Average weekly earnings in 2006 were less for those in ‘mining’, ‘arts, entertainment, and recreation’, and ‘agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining’ than they were in 2000. The ‘utilities’ sector paid the most (\$1,144.85), and the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector paid the least (\$174.59).

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

Table 3.27 illustrates the general business environment in the Buckeye Hills region from 2000-2005. The number of new business starts reached a 10 year low of 487 in 2005. The number of active businesses has varied during this time, but a 10 year high was

reached in 2004 with 5,106 active businesses in the Buckeye Hills district. The 2005 figure of 5,052 total active businesses was close to that 10 year high level from 2004.

Athens County Economics

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Ohio 2006
Civilian Labor Force	27,300	28,300	28,500	29,600	29,600	29,900	30,500	5,934,000
Employment	26,000	27,200	27,200	28,200	27,800	28,000	28,700	5,609,100
Unemployment	1,300	1,100	1,300	1,400	1,800	1,900	1,800	324,900
Unemployment Rate	4.7	3.8	4.6	4.8	6.2	6.4	5.9	5.5

Table 3.28 examines the civilian labor force in Athens County. The employment levels have been steadily increasing since 2000, with a total increase of 1,700. Athens County has seen a 500 person increase in unemployment over this time as well. Although the unemployment rate did fall to 5.9 percent in 2006, Athens County remains one of the only counties in the region that maintains an unemployment level in pace with the state average. Athens County is home to a major state university, Ohio University, which plays a major role in the local employment patterns.

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

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

The employment picture of Athens County is dominated by the ‘retail trade’, ‘health care,’ ‘accommodation and food services,’ and ‘state and local government’ sectors of employment. The large government presence is to be expected with a large public university in the county. The manufacturing sector saw the largest loss of employment, losing 283 positions since 2000.

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

Table 3.30 depicts the average weekly wages by industrial (NAICS) sector from 2000 through 2005. The ‘utilities’ sector in 2005 was paying the highest weekly wage (\$1,235.40). The lowest wages in the county were found in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$163.67).

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Business Starts	132	157	107	121	119	90
Business Terminations	139	129	na	na	na	na
Net Change	-7	28	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	1,064	1,069	1,081	1,090	1,139	1,123

Over the six-year period from 2000-2005, Athens County sustained a relatively high level of business starts, topping out at 157 in 2001, and averaging 121 per year. The number of total active businesses has also continued to climb, reaching a nine-year high of 1,139 in 2004. Information on business terminations and net change continues to be suppressed for all counties.

Hocking County Economics

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Ohio 2006
Civilian Labor Force	11,800	11,800	12,000	12,200	13,800	13,800	14,000	5,934,000
Employment	10,800	11,100	11,200	11,200	12,700	12,800	13,100	5,609,100
Unemployment	1,000	800	800	1,000	1,100	1,000	900	324,900
Unemployment Rate	8.7	6.4	6.4	8	7.7	7.5	6.2	5.5

The unemployment rate in Hocking County over this seven-year period has been varied, reaching a high of 8.7% in 2000. However in 2006 the unemployment reached a seven-year low of 6.2 percent, a 2.5 percent decrease since 2000. The overall civilian labor reached it's largest level in 2006, with 14,000 potential workers. A corresponding high was also reached in employment during 2006, with 13,100 individuals employed.

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

Table 3.33 illustrates the employment levels by employment sector in Hocking County. The manufacturing sector in Hocking County continues to shrink, seeing the largest loss of any sector between 2000 and 2005 (-536). ‘Retail trade’ saw the largest increase over this period, 194 workers.

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

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

The above table looks at the average weekly wages in Hocking County from 2000-2005. The highest wage in Hocking County during 2005 was found in the ‘state government’ sector (\$922.27). The lowest wage was found in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$200.48)

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

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

Hocking County has seen the total number of active businesses increase since 2000, to a nine-year high of 562 in 2004. The number of business starts has decreased since a high of 93 was recorded in 2000. Hocking County is averaging 80 business starts per year over this six-year period.

Meigs County Economics

Table 3.36 - Meigs County- Civilian Labor Force								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Ohio 2006
Civilian Labor Force	8,400	8,000	7,400	7,100	9,000	9,000	9,100	5,934,000
Employment	7,500	7,300	6,600	6,000	8,100	8,100	8,300	5,609,100
Unemployment	900	700	800	1,100	1,000	900	800	324,900
Unemployment Rate	10.5	8.7	11.3	15.7	10.8	9.8	8.5	5.5

Table 3.36 shows the civilian labor force information for Meigs County. The overall civilian labor force has been unstable from year to year, but has shown some growth overall, reaching a high point of 9,100 in 2006. This increase has led to a higher level of employment, and even a slightly lower level of unemployment compared to the previous three years. In 2003 the unemployment rate jumped 4.4 percent from the previous year, bringing the total to an astounding 15.7 percent. A 4.9 percent decrease in 2004 brought the rate down to 10.8, which was still one of the highest in the district, and nearly double the annual state average in 2004. By 2006 the unemployment had dropped below the 10 percent level to 8.5 percent, a 2 percent drop since 2000.

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

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

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

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

Table 3.38 illustrates the average weekly wages by industrial sector for Meigs County. The highest wages in the county were in the ‘utilities’ sector (\$1,185.33), while the lowest wages were in the ‘arts, entertainment, and recreation,’ sector (\$121.94).

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

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

Meigs County experienced a ten-year low in business starts in 2005 with 28. The number of total active businesses has fallen since 2004 (-15) and since 2000 (-18). Meigs County has averaged 35 business starts per year over this six-year span.

Monroe County Economics

Table 3.40 - Monroe County-Civilian Labor Force								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Ohio 2006
Civilian Labor Force	5,800	5,300	5,300	5,400	6,100	5,500	5,100	5,934,000
Employment	5,200	4,900	4,800	4,900	5,500	4,700	4,500	5,609,100
Unemployment	500	300	400	500	600	700	600	324,900
Unemployment Rate	9.4	6.6	8.1	8.8	10.1	13.1	11.3	5.5

Table 3.40 shows the civilian labor force totals of Monroe County from 2000 to 2006. The labor force has recently fallen to a level lower than was recorded in 2000 (-700). 2004 saw a 700 person increase in the overall civilian labor force, bringing it to the highest level in the seven-year period. The unemployment rate in Monroe County has been continually high in comparison to the other counties in the district, reaching a high of 13.1 percent in 2004. Recently the largest employer in the county was able to strike a deal to end ongoing labor issues with the local labor unions. This facility is back in operation and is currently rebuilding the workforce there, a very positive sign for the county.

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

The employment scene in Monroe County has been unchanging for many years. Of note here are the staggering losses recorded between 2000 and 2005 in the ‘manufacturing’ sector, with 1,976 positions being lost. The ‘finance and insurance’ sector has seen the largest increase over this time, with 314 positions being reported overall. (Note: In the table above ‘-1’ signifies that the employment totals were suppressed)

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

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

Based on table 3.42 above, the highest wage in the county was found in the ‘manufacturing’ sector (\$1,660.12), while the lowest wage was found in the ‘accommodation and food service’ sector (\$154.12).

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

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

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

rebounded to 31 in 2005. The number of total active businesses has risen only slightly, with a net increase of 3 active businesses between 2000 and 2005.

Morgan County Economics

Table 3.44 - Morgan County- Civilian Labor Force								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Ohio 2006
Civilian Labor Force	4,500	4,500	4,300	4,300	6,300	6,200	5,800	5,934,000
Employment	3,900	3,800	3,700	3,600	5,700	5,600	5,300	5,609,100
Unemployment	600	700	600	700	700	600	500	324,900
Unemployment Rate	12.4	14.7	14.3	16.4	10.4	9.9	9.1	5.5

Table 3.44 provides us with data on Morgan County’s civilian labor force from 2000 to 2006. Immediately you will notice the high levels of unemployment, which Morgan County is experiencing and has experienced in the past. On a month to month basis, Morgan County has had one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. Morgan County experienced a high in the number of individuals in their civilian labor force during 2004. That number has since leveled off, but is still higher than the levels seen in 2000. The number of unemployed individuals has remained fairly steady, as the unemployment rate in the county has decreased by 6 percent between 2003 and 2004, and another 1.3 percent between 2004 and 2006. In 2003 the unemployment rate in Morgan County was nearly triple the state average at an astonishing 16.4 percent.

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

Morgan County continues to endure a difficulties retaining and sustaining reasonable employment levels in the county. At least eight sectors of employment decreased between 2000 and 2005 (data suppression makes further analysis difficult). The reported level of manufacturing positions has been more than cut in half since 2000 (-378).

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

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

During 2005, the highest wage in Morgan County was reported in the ‘wholesale trade’ sector (\$841.44), while the lowest was reported in the ‘real estate and rental and leasing’ sector (\$146.00).

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

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

The number of new business starts in Morgan County continues to fall after a recent high of 46 in 2003. The average number of new business starts per year during this period was

29. The total number of active businesses has been decreasing since 2003, with a net change of -8 since 2000.

Noble County Economics

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Ohio 2006
Civilian Labor Force	5,600	5,300	5,500	5,800	5,800	5,900	5,900	5,934,000
Employment	5,200	5,000	5,200	5,300	5,300	5,400	5,500	5,609,100
Unemployment	400	300	400	500	500	500	400	324,900
Unemployment Rate	7.5	5.8	6.9	8.9	8.5	8.1	7.2	5.5

Table 3.48 shows us civilian labor force information for Noble County between 2000 and 2006. Noble County has had very steady labor force, employment, and unemployment levels from 2000 to 2006. The unemployment rate has decreased by .3 percent since 2000. During this period Noble County has seen a slight increase in civilian labor force and employment, while seeing the number of unemployed stay relatively unchanged.

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

Data suppression of employment levels in Noble County makes trend analysis difficult between 2000 and 2005. Based on what is shown, with the exception of manufacturing (-145 since 2001), most sectors have seen only modest changes in employment levels.

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

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

Table 3.50 shows the average weekly earnings by industrial sector for Noble County between 2000 and 2005. In 2005 the highest wages in Noble County were recorded in the ‘manufacturing’ sector (\$749.58), while the lowest wages were recorded in the ‘other services, except public administration’ sector (\$193.73). Of those sectors reporting, the ‘professional and technical services’ sector saw a \$274.06 increase in their recorded weekly wage between 2000 and 2005.

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

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

The business environment in Noble County has rebounded in the past year after experiencing very low numbers of business starts between 2002 and 2004. Noble County has averaged 19 business starts per year during the time period specified, and has experienced a net loss of 14 businesses.

Perry County Economics

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Ohio 2006
Civilian Labor Force	14,200	14,400	14,700	15,000	16,700	16,600	16,600	5,934,000
Employment	13,100	13,400	13,500	13,500	15,200	15,200	15,400	5,609,100
Unemployment	1,100	1,000	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,200	324,900
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.1	8.1	9.8	8.8	8.1	7.4	5.5

Table 3.52 illustrates the state of the civilian labor force in Perry County. In a trend continuing since 2004, Perry County has experienced strong levels of individuals in the civilian labor force, and in the number of individuals employed. The number of individuals unemployed was also at a recent high in 2004, but has decreased slightly in the times following (-300). The unemployment rate reached a high at 9.8 percent in 2003, but had fallen to 7.4 percent by 2006.

(Continued on Next Page)

Table 3.53 -Perry County- Employment by Industrial Sector						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	6,755	6,645	6,736	6,626	6,462	6,417
Private Sector	5,059	4,898	4,989	4,826	4,646	4,581
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	52	20	21	21	24	22
Mining	249	197	233	229	232	228
Utilities	35	33	28	30	29	29
Construction	438	452	557	636	659	623
Manufacturing	1,593	1,520	1,493	1,347	1,156	1,134
Wholesale trade	182	185	172	99	78	74
Retail trade	751	727	665	671	664	679
Transportation and warehousing	66	69	57	54	58	61
Information	41	55	62	57	39	33
Finance and insurance	198	214	238	259	261	214
Real estate and rental and leasing	26	28	29	33	43	40
Professional and technical services	108	106	107	103	105	105
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	57	48	44	43	-1	-1
Educational services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Health care and social assistance	621	618	-1	-1	-1	-1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	53	44	34	31	30	38
Accommodation and food services	406	397	394	361	382	389
Other services, except public administration	138	136	153	153	141	156
State and Local Government	1,696	1,747	1,747	1,799	1,816	1,836
State government	39	41	41	44	48	46
Local government	1,657	1,706	1,706	1,755	1,768	1,790
Federal Government	88	75	77	77	78	75

With the exception of the ‘manufacturing’ sector, which has lost 459 positions since 2000, Perry County has maintained a fairly steady employment pattern.

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

(Continued on Next Page)

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

Table 3.54 shows the average weekly wages for industrial sectors in Perry County. The highest wage in Perry County was recorded in the ‘utilities’ sector (\$1,313.52). The lowest wage was recorded in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$177.00).

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

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

Table 3.55 illustrates the business environment in Perry County from 2000 to 2005. Perry County experienced a recent high in total active businesses in the county in 2004 with 692. The total increase since 2000 has been 69 businesses. The number of business

starts in the county has fallen to a recent low since 2000. A high was reached in 2000 with 116 businesses opening their doors. The average number of new business starts is 104 per year.

Washington County Economics

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Ohio 2006
Civilian Labor Force	32,700	32,100	32,700	33,400	33,100	32,500	33,000	5,934,000
Employment	31,000	30,900	31,100	31,400	31,000	30,600	31,300	5,609,100
Unemployment	1,600	1,200	1,600	2,000	2,100	1,900	1,700	324,900
Unemployment Rate	5	3.8	4.8	6	6.3	5.9	5.3	5.5

Washington County, along with Athens County, is the largest and strongest economic county in the region. Washington County has experienced fairly stable levels of employment and number of individuals in the civilian labor force between 2000 and 2006. The unemployment levels reached a recent high 2003 and 2004, but have since dropped slightly.

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

Table 3.57 gives us an accurate description of the employment levels in the various sectors in Washington County. Although large losses have been experienced in the ‘manufacturing’ sector (-1,154), strong gains have been made in the sectors of ‘administrative and waste services (649), ‘health care and social assistance’ (604), and in the ‘educational services’ sector (446).

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

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

Table 3.58 illustrates the weekly wages reported for the various employment sectors in Washington County. The highest average weekly wages were reported in the ‘utilities’ sector (\$1,367.15), while the lowest wages were recorded in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$194.15). Of the sectors reporting, the largest increase between 2000 and 2005 was recorded in the ‘construction’ sector (\$213.41). The only reported decrease was in the ‘agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting’ sector (-\$24.69).

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

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

Table 3.59 shows us the components of business change in Washington County from 2000 to 2005. 2005 saw a recent high number of businesses start in Washington County (128), which also served to bring the number of total active businesses to a recent high as well (1,513). The average number of business starts per year over this period was 118.

Economic Resources

Government Assistance

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

Table 3.60 shows us the amount of direct federal payments made to individuals for fiscal year 2005. As we have observed in the past, Washington and Athens Counties have the highest amounts, due to the fact that they have considerably higher population levels than the other counties in the region. Athens and Washington Counties also received the largest amounts of federal payments for retirement and disability benefits for fiscal year 2005

	Grants Awarded
BHHVRDD	\$373,102,021
Athens	\$110,221,196
Hocking	\$30,114,652
Meigs	\$43,241,960
Monroe	\$25,525,235
Morgan	\$20,416,992
Noble	\$18,006,694
Perry	\$43,072,082
Washington	\$82,503,210

Table 3.61 illustrates the amounts of federal grants awarded to the counties in the region during fiscal year 2004. As we described in the previous discussion, Athens and Washington Counties received proportionately higher amounts of federal grant monies during fiscal year 2004.

	Direct Loans	Guaranteed Loans
BHHVRDD	\$272,950,774	\$52,780,266
Athens	\$260,057,652	\$12,415,709
Hocking	\$342,510	\$8,482,839
Meigs	\$276,357	\$2,255,768
Monroe	\$143,300	\$1,910,869
Morgan	\$262,166	\$2,487,400
Noble	\$350,880	\$1,240,646
Perry	\$541,002	\$6,661,317
Washington	\$10,976,907	\$17,325,718

Table 3.62 illustrates the amounts of direct and guaranteed loans secured by the eight counties within the district. Again, Athens and Washington Counties led the way during fiscal year 2004, bringing in over \$300 million in direct and guaranteed loans. The remaining six counties combined for nearly \$25 million in direct and guaranteed loans.

Educational Attainment

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

Table 3.61 illustrates educational attainment in individuals age 25 and over for the year 2000. The Buckeye Hills region had a 10 percent higher high school graduate level than the state in 2000. Perry County had the highest percentage, 51.1 percent, of persons over 25 with a high school diploma. The region falls slightly behind in terms of collegiate attainment. The region’s over-25 population with some college education was roughly 15 percent, while the state level was 19.9 percent. This lag behind the state seems to remain constant when looking at the number of individuals over 25 with bachelor’s degrees. (Note: Graduate students attending Ohio University and Marietta College may

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

CHAPTER IV **REGIONAL ISSUES**

During the summer of 2006, the staff of Buckeye Hills invited local economic development practitioners, county commissioners, mayors, local experts, and other interested parties to two informal discussions to determine and debate issues of local and regional importance. These meetings considered the state of the regional economy; external trends and forces; partners for economic development; and resources for economic development. The information and discussion below, and in the remainder of this chapter, was taken from these two meetings.

State of the economy

Strengths and weaknesses of the region

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

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

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

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

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

During the meetings, attendants provided discussion surrounding both strengths and weaknesses, as well as related topics. The points of discussion are listed below.

State of the Economy- Many members had comments about the overall state of the regional economy and the factors that have influence upon it. Several members felt that the next wave of economic development in our area would likely be in the entrepreneurial/ small business area. Based on the losses seen locally in the manufacturing sector (i.e. labor disputes at Ormet in Monroe County, closing of McBee in Athens County, etc.) members felt that it was unlikely that there would be another ‘big bang’ of job growth to be derived from new manufacturing operations starting or relocating to this area. Based on the fact that the manufacturing sector has been slowly shrinking, the committee believed that some people may be more inclined at this point to work for themselves in an entrepreneurial nature, rather than compete for a smaller number of manufacturing jobs, or stay in an unsteady employment position.

Members took the discussions about entrepreneurial activities in the region even further as they discussed ways in which to encourage these undertakings. The point was raised that if there were some sort of incentive package(s) available to those who operate or create small businesses, and therein create quality jobs, then perhaps more individuals would feel inclined to go in to business for themselves. Current incentives, public funding criteria, and other supplemental aid programs and packages seem to be targeted only toward projects and endeavors with large numbers of new job creation. The consensus of the group was simple: the focus on creating a certain number of jobs has superseded the need to create quality jobs. In a similar light, members cited the fact that we currently are not doing enough to maintain and/or enhance the jobs and industries we currently have. At the close of the discussion members stated that all these ideas take a considerable amount of time to develop; are we (as a region) able and prepared to wait?

Since the final CEDS committee meeting, the Ormet labor situation has been resolved in Monroe County, which was a major victory for the residents of the county, as Ormet is by far the largest employer. Other manufacturing facilities, including Eramet in Washington County have encountered and resolved labor strife within the past 6-8 months. All these signs point toward a manufacturing employment base that is simply struggling for survival against intra-state and global competition. It seems unlikely that we will see major growth beyond the current capacity in this field.

Infrastructure- The major topic at nearly every CEDS meeting in recent history has been local and regional infrastructure. Each year the group identifies the development and improvement of infrastructure of all types as a cornerstone to the potential of any economic development happening within this district. Members have stated that one reason our district has difficulty attracting outside private investment is that available sites and areas throughout the district may have infrastructure needs (i.e. lack of public

water, lack of public sewer, broadband, etc) which are difficult to address. One member cited the fact that without a major effort to develop potential sites on a very basic level, it would be increasingly difficult to attract private investment. Many sites that are listed as potential development sites lack access to major transportation: road, rail, and river.

Infrastructure/Broadband- The infrastructure discussions at this meeting and at several previous CEDS committee meetings have quickly turned to the topic of broadband. Among the CEDS committee members, most all seem to feel that broadband is an essential part of modern infrastructure, in the same way as water, sewer, and electric service. Broadband service is being demanded by potential buyers/investors/companies, but unfortunately only selected areas within our district have this service. (The 2005 CEDS includes broadband/ cellular telephone coverage maps as Appendix D.) These broadband services were cited as something which not only helps attract businesses, but also helps attract residents to the local areas as well. Several members stated that the lack of telecommunications infrastructure in our region, and the whole of Appalachia, make it increasingly difficult to do business effectively. As a group we discussed whether this was a result of a lack of supply (service), or a lack of demand by local residents. Valid points were had on both sides of the discussion; ultimately it is this sort of ‘catch 22’ situation that prevents major service providers such as Verizon from making large capital investments in the region. There is no doubt that there is a growing need, but the question remains whether there is enough critical mass to spur an initial investment that could lead to large scale deployment.

The discussion then turned to what programs were available to aid in this broadband deficiency issue. Members felt that there were several programs available for communities to establish or expand telecommunications capabilities in rural areas. However, in order to fully and correctly implement these programs, a community would need to have some expertise available for information and assistance. It was noted that it is difficult to retain these types of tech-savvy individuals in an area that does not have existing broadband service.

Regional Priorities/Regionalism- One member gave his experience within a county of the district, as they attempted to implement standard criteria for ranking potential projects within the county. He stated that this process worked well for a while, until local politicians began sidestepping the process when their particular project did not score in a high manner. Effectively the project listing was disregarded and funding was sought on an individual basis. This political member felt that the area lacked the political cohesiveness needed to make the criteria and rankings work as they were intended. This member and most others in attendance agreed that while generally difficult to implement, this type of project ranking on the county, regional, or any other level, is ultimately a good idea.

At the time of the most recent meeting the members were still unhappy with the ARC earmarks that had been placed in the Ohio allocation, which essentially consumed the entire allotment of ARC funding for projects that year. (With the change in Ohio administration these earmarks were removed.) Many members of the committee voiced

concern that the local process of project development and selection was being overtaken by politicians in Washington. The importance of working with local resources such as Local Development Districts in order to develop projects that are of local nature and importance was stressed. Some members even went as far to say that the recent actions by Ohio lawmakers had damaged the partnership forged between federal, state, and local entities in the realm of project development.

Growth sectors of the economy

In the 2005 CEDS document there was lots of discussion concerning broadband deployment in the southeastern Ohio region. Many felt that broadband deployment was happening at a normal and acceptable rate. Now, nearly two years later, members of the CEDS committee indicated that those activities seemed to indicate the establishment of broadband service in some of our more populated areas. However the continued deployment of these technologies in to the more rural areas has been occurring at a much slower rate than the initial establishment. Members also stated that what was acceptable and functional as a broadband service two years ago, may not be sufficient now. As we spoke about earlier, these broadband services are critical to effective business operation, yet much of our region may lack the critical mass needed to incite a large investment by a service provider. While this may not be a true ‘economic sector’, it has been identified as an area crucial to the growth of all other economic sectors in the region.

While the manufacturing sector in the Buckeye Hills region as a whole has been shrinking, there have been some signs of growth in selected areas of this sector. One reasonably strong growth area has been the area of plastics and polymers. During 2005 and 2006, several major private investment projects were completed in the region, including; Solvay Advanced Polymers (\$50 million, 2005), Diagnostic Hybrids (\$14 million, 2005), Mondo Polymer Technologies (\$5 million, 2006), and Dimex (\$1.8 million, 2006). A list of all recorded private investments in the Buckeye Hills region can be found in the Ohio Private Investment Survey released by the Ohio Department of Development in February 2007.

(<http://www.odod.state.oh.us/research/files/B200000000.pdf>) The Buckeye Hills district is identified in these reports as ‘region 11.’

A fledgling and quickly growing field of the economy in our district is the alternative fuel research and development area. In March 2007 Hocking College received a \$1.6 million EDA Public Works grant to construct the ‘Hocking College Energy Institute’ outside of Logan Ohio. This facility will house the fuel cell technologies program which is already operating at the college. Research in the areas of fuel cell technologies, alternative fuels (biomass, biodiesel, ethanol, etc.) will take place at the facility, as well as training for hybrid vehicle technicians. This investment is taking place adjacent to the Logan-Hocking Industrial Park, which is anticipating an influx of companies and groups looking to capitalize on the research and development activities and capabilities of the Energy Institute. To help bolster all these efforts, the Hocking County CIC formed the ‘Appalachian Advanced Energy Association, LLC.’ The goal of this body is to help attract energy-related entities to the Logan-Hocking Industrial Park and the general

Logan area. This body will help capitalize on the efforts put forth by Hocking College, and to help this developing sector continue growing within our regional economy.

Driving force of economy

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

The rural nature of our district also plays a role in driving the types of investments and developments which take place in the local area.

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

External trends and forces

Opportunities and threats

In the previous CEDS document there was considerable discussion about the floods of 2004 and 2005, and the effects those had on local governments and economies. As of spring 2007, Buckeye Hills was just concluding a flood recovery grant to help some of the local communities make repairs to infrastructure that was damaged as a result of these floods. Some of the hardest hit areas were the populated river areas of Meigs County (Pomeroy and Middleport area) and the City of Marietta in Washington County. Although these floods are in the distant past now, many residents and business owners will not soon forget the destruction caused by the flood waters. Inclement weather and dangerous storms are now much more closely watched, as they are now ingrained in the collective consciousness as an external force and a threat to the region.

The CEDS committee also identified the danger to our local manufacturing base as a result of intrastate and global competition. This issue was also raised in the 2005 CEDS document and continues to be a threat to the regional economy today. There have been signs of struggle within the district during the past two years. These include the extended

labor strife at Ormet Aluminum in Hannibal Ohio that lasted from November 2004 until fall 2006 which nearly cost Monroe County 865 jobs, a similar situation at Eramet in Marietta which involved 260 workers, and the closing of the McBee manufacturing facility in Athens County which took 360 jobs with it. (Although the labor situation was resolved in Monroe County, the Ormet Rolling Mill never reopened, costing the county several hundred jobs.)

In the light of these recent issues, many of the members were concerned with trying to understand how our area of Ohio is competing with its bordering state neighbors, in our particular case, West Virginia. It was largely agreed that it is difficult to compare the two states due to the large difference in relative population size. Members stated that the point of entry for businesses may be better/easier in West Virginia, due to Ohio's systematic and rigid tax and regulatory policies, however most felt that locating in Ohio yielded more long term benefits than West Virginia.

This topic started a natural progression into discussion of our local work force. One member of the committee stated that in their regular work with local employers, it was becoming clear that the work ethic of our area, especially among younger workers, was not as strong as previously thought. The difficulty of truly analyzing and quantifying the quality of a local work force was also discussed. As an example of trying to combat this issue, Morgan County has recently completed a 'Human Capital Assessment' that aimed at surveying and recording the qualities and conditions of the work force local to Morgan County. Many of the members acknowledged this as a good idea and something that other counties/areas should consider.

A recurring issue from the 2005 and 2004 CEDS was the perception of prohibitive matching-fund requirements for participation in some federal and state funding programs. Members also cited the sometimes overwhelming administrative burden of some program requirements upon local communities that sometimes discourages their participation. A continuing concern expressed by nearly all present, was the fact that funding opportunities are becoming increasingly limited and competitive, due to dwindling available resources at all levels. The general consensus continued to be 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. Again, this is a sentiment that was prevalent during CEDS meetings in previous years.

Regional position in the national and global economies

The CEDS committee continued to illustrate that the Buckeye Hills area held an important position in the local regional economy. As has been discussed in previous CEDS documents, our region continues to be a major supplier of natural resources, as well as a supplier of basic products such as metal, plastics, and wood products. These items are all crucial to the overall economic success of the state. The previously cited report completed by Deloitte in conjunction with Ohio Department of Development, noted that the 'Appalachian region of Ohio, which encompasses all of the Southeast

region, is home to 13 power plants and provides more than 60 percent of the state's total (power) generating capacity.'

The 2005 CEDS document discussed the position of region within the national and global economy as 'changing.' The most recent meetings of the CEDS committee felt that this position had become settled and largely unchanged since the previous discussions. The initial outlaying of broadband technologies helped bring us closer to a level playing field in terms of competition with other areas, however since 2005 it was the sentiment of the committee that the continued deployment of broadband and other telecommunication services in the region had slowed. While the region is still greatly benefiting from the technologies currently in place, much more is needed to keep pace with the growth of the world outside of our district.

In summary, our region continues to hold an important position within the state and regional economy due to the raw material, manufacturing, and power production capacities within our district.

Partners for economic development

The important actors in the region

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

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

Presenters of important but unfamiliar economic development issues

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

Resources for economic development

Groups and organizations available to the region

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

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

Support and funding for development activities

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

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

CHAPTER V

VISION

Regional Vision

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

- That local communities create diverse economies which provide sustainable employment and a living wage;
- That local economic development officials and industry leaders meet to identify potential problems and create solutions, therefore making economic development in the region more proactive and regional in scope;
- That local economic development projects make the best use of limited local resources, achieve measurable outcomes, and implement sustainable development practices;
- That local communities protect and enhance the natural integrity of the region;
- 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 regional issues and creating our regional vision, a number of goals were identified as objectives that Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District and its partners should focus their efforts upon. Many of the ideas and concepts below have been described in previous CEDS documents and remain relevant to the ongoing development and well being of the district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Work to curb ‘regionalism’ (negative competition).

What is the severity of the problem?

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

What is the scope?

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

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

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

Does the goal make best use of existing resources?

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

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

What is the severity of the problem?

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

What is the scope?

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

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

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

Does the goal make best use of existing resources?

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

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

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

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

Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.

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

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

What is the scope of the goal?

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

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

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

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

Infrastructure needs are among the most basic of needs considered when examining a region for expansion or growth. Not only does infrastructure help create, attract, and retain business, but it also improves the quality of life for those constituents living in the region. However the improvement of infrastructure of

all types is generally very costly, and does not happen quickly. The provision of public water, public sewage, and other basic needs is a sound investment of existing resources in the health of the citizens within the district.

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

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

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

What is the scope of the goal?

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

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

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

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

This goal challenges us to use our existing resources, to build the capacity for new resources in the future. If we can succeed in expending our current resources in the way we intend to, by building new infrastructure, training our workforce, and

working together to gain maximum benefit instead of negative competition, we will have efficiently utilized our current resources while at the same time laying an attractive groundwork for future investments.

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

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

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

What is the scope of the goal?

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

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

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

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

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

Additional Discussion:

Promoting a Regional Approach to Community and Economic Development

Regional Approach – Obstacles and Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

Watershed Areas and Sustainable Development:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Establishing Local Support for the Regional Approach

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

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

CHAPTER VI **ACTION PLAN**

Work to Curb Regionalism (Negative Competition)

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

Strengths and Weakness:

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

Strategies:

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

Implementation:

Short-term

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

Intermediate-term

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

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

Long-term

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

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

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

Strengths and Weakness:

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

Strategies:

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

Implementation:

Short-term

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

Intermediate-term

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

Long-term

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

Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.

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

Strengths and Weakness:

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

Strategies:

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

- Coordinate efforts between transportation planners and economic development practitioners.

Implementation:

Short-term

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

Intermediate-term

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

Long-term

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

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

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

Strengths and Weakness:

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

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

Strategies:

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

Implementation:

Short-term

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

Intermediate-term

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

Long-term

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

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

Objective: To improve the region in areas such as, access to healthcare, quality of local education, access to public safety services, improvement of environmental conditions, and access to social services. Improving on

these ‘soft’ economic development issues improves the areas ability to attract and sustain new economic development opportunities.

Strengths and Weakness:

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

Strategies:

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

Implementation:

Short-term

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

Intermediate-term

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

Long-term

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

Implementation Plan

All communities work within the constraints of limited time and resources. However, communities need to allocate resources to various programs and projects to achieve the area development strategies. This section deals with the implementation stage of planning, and the identification of activities, projects, and programs that will begin in fiscal year 2007.

2007 CEDS Projects

The BH-HVRDD staff maintains a continuing dialogue with local communities to address local priorities and potential projects. During the spring of 2007, the planning staff mailed project surveys to the county and local governments, chambers of commerce, community improvement corporations, and economic development professionals.

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

Project Prioritization Criteria

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

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – 2006-2007 Annual Report

Table 6.1 Ranked Project List 2007

Rank	Project Name	County	Jobs Created or Retained	Scope of Project	Goal Relationship	Environmental Impact	Distress Level	Total Score
1	American Municipal Power Generating Station	Meigs	20	20	20	10	10	80
2	Meigs County Emergency Room Project	Meigs	15	20	20	10	10	75
3	City of Marietta Business Incubator	Washington	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Marietta Regional Sewer Project	Washington	20	20	20	10	0	70
	AEP Lands Development	Noble	20	20	20	10	0	70
4	Route 7 Water & Sewer Extension	Washington	15	15	20	10	0	60
5	Noble County Sewer Projects	Noble	15	15	20	10	0	60
	Workforce Marketing Project	Washington	15	15	15	10	0	55

*Distress level determined using FY 2007 ARC information.

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

In the past year, Buckeye Hills was able to get the top ranked project (Hocking College Energy Institute) from the 2005 CEDS document through the EDA grant full application process, and funded for approximately \$1.6 million.

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

Planning Programs and Activities

2007 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Report (CEDS)

The Staff will continue to annually update the CEDS document and improve the CEDS process. The CEDS is a valuable tool in determining the economic health and growth of a region. The staff will document the program experience during the past year. A CEDS advisory committee will be formed from local economic development experts, and other local participants. With the assistance of the CEDS advisory committee, area trends will be evaluated and goals and strategies will be developed. The staff will incorporate the information gathered from the advisory committee into the 2007 CEDS Annual Report.

Geographic Information System Services (GIS)/Data Center Services

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

Solicitation and Completion of GIS Related Projects/ Projects with GIS

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

Global Positioning System (GPS) Activities – Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District will continue to offer GPS location services as a compliment to our GIS service offerings, to constituents throughout the region. This program allows Buckeye Hills to create native and unique data for use with existing GIS data and technologies when no existing data is available. With this technology, data that is not otherwise available can be created and shared between parties throughout the region. Many funding sources are requiring more sophisticated location information as part of their application process; with the use of this technology Buckeye Hills is able to provide this information for applicants who may be unable to obtain it otherwise. Buckeye Hills is also able to offer this technology to local communities who wish to track and maintain their physical assets, such as water systems, sewer systems, green spaces, and other utilities. By using GPS technologies in conjunction with customized maps from our GIS, we are able to provide maps and surrounding documentation to municipal governments where none may have been available previously. This activity now includes the ‘Water and Sewer Mapping’ activity listed in the previous CEDS document.

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

State Data Center – The staff will continue to receive, analyze, and distribute the latest statistical information and updates from State and Federal sources. Buckeye Hills will continue to provide that data to anyone requesting it free of charge. This data is utilized

for a multitude of purposes such as funding applications, educational research, and media reports. The data center will continue to publish the bi-monthly ‘Data Center Update.’ This document gives a brief snapshot of current labor conditions for the district, as well as any other pertinent recent statistical updates. This publication is distributed via ground mail and email, as well as being available from our website.

Regional Promotion

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

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

Appalachianmarket.com – In late 2005, Buckeye Hills sponsored the creation and launch of a website, which showcases products from entrepreneurs who were able to utilize our ‘Trickle-Up’ small business grant funding programming to bolster their home based business. This website assists Buckeye Hills’ staff in highlighting our growing home based/ artisan industry, while also generating new revenue streams for these small businesses.

Business Technical Assistance

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

Intergovernmental Review – Buckeye Hills will continue its role as the designated A95 Clearinghouse for our region. Buckeye Hills’ staff will receive, catalog, and distribute,

application information, and accept comments concerning proposed and ongoing projects throughout the region. Once the data is received, a review will be completed in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations. This, along with other technical assistance services, ensures that other local leaders, individuals, and agencies are aware of activities/ projects taking place within the eight county district.

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

Countywide Prioritization

Buckeye Hills staff continues to work 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. Funding agencies such as ARC and EDA feel strongly about prioritizing potential projects in order to ensure the maximum regional benefit is achieved. Buckeye Hills will continue to promote this process as a model for other counties throughout 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.

Southeastern Ohio Port Authority (SeOPA) US EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant –

Staff will assist SeOPA with the administration of the US EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant by identifying potential Brownfield properties and developing an inventory and profile of possible and actual Brownfield properties that are or could be made available for development. Staff will also create a RFQ for SeOPA to hire an environmental consultant to prepare the Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments.

West Malta Water Project- Buckeye Hills will continue assisting Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding for the West Malta Water Project. This project will extend water service to approximately 200 households in Malta and Penn Townships, while allowing for future expansion with the construction of a new storage tank and booster station. The project is scheduled to begin construction in the summer of 2007.

Bishopville Water Project- Buckeye Hills will continue to assist Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding for the Bishopville Water Project. This project will extend water service to unserved 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. This is scheduled to begin construction in the summer of 2007.

Reno Water Project- Buckeye Hills will continue to assist the Washington County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Reno Water and Sewer District. The application for CDBG Water and Sewer is due in August 2005. The project will extend water lines onto County Roads 9, 333, 20, 47 and Township Road 394 in Washington County, creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$644,695. The project involves the installation of approximately 7 miles of water line and services approximately 65 homes. The project will promote positive community growth. Buckeye Hills’ staff will continue to assist the Washington County Commissioners in obtaining CDBG Water and Sewer Funds. The CDBG application will be submitted in July 2007.

Noble County Water- Buckeye Hills will assist the Noble County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Noble County Water Authority. The application for CDBG Water and Sewer is due in August 2005. The project will extend water lines to serve approximately 36 residents along Ohio State Route 285 between the villages of Caldwell and Sarahsville creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$628,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 4.5 miles of water line and services approximately 36 homes. The project will promote positive community growth. Buckeye Hills’ staff will continue to assist the Noble County Commissioners in obtaining CDBG Water and Sewer Funds. The CDBG application will be submitted in July 2007.

Monroe County Flood Mitigation Project- As a result of the catastrophic flooding in 2004, Buckeye Hills will continue to work with the Monroe County Commissioners and local resident as OEMA/FEMA prepares a funding scenario for this project. This project includes the acquisition and demolition of 32 repetitive loss structures in the floodplain/floodway and/or other flood hazard areas within Monroe County.

Morgan County Formula – 2005- Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Morgan County Formula Program for FY'2005, 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 an 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.

Washington County Formula -2005- Buckeye Hills will continue to serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2005, assuring that the five 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 an 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 -2006- Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2006, assisting the grantee by assuring that the eight projects within Washington County, and one project for the City of Belpre comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners.

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

State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program (SCIP/LTIP)- The SCIP/LTIP program provides funding to counties, townships, villages, and water and sewer districts to enable them to repair or replace roads, bridges, culverts, water supply, wastewater, solid waste and storm water systems. The staff will provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP

application. The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which includes, but is not limited to: meeting coordination, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various SCIP/LTIP programs.

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

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

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

Staff will assist one community in preparing two (2) Phase I Environmental Site Assessment grants through the State of Ohio Clean Ohio Assistance fund.

Staff will assist two communities in preparing three (3) Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment grants through the State of Ohio Clean Ohio Assistance fund.

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

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

During fiscal year 2006, the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund closed eight loans, with \$744,073 in total loan assistance provided, 66.5 jobs created and 24 retained.

Trickle Up Program- Buckeye Hills will continue to 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. Each grant is composed of two installments; the first being \$500, the second installment of \$200 is contingent on the completion of a business report after 3 months of operation. The total amount a recipient could receive is \$700. The 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.

During fiscal year 2006, the Trickle Up grant program gave assistance to nine businesses within the region, with a total potential grant amount of \$6,300. The total grant amount listed in this paragraph is an estimation based on the assumption that all grantees will complete the necessary items to receive the full \$700.

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 training programs for water and sanitary sewer system board members. Board members are being trained in management, fiscal operations, and system operations.

Housing Program- The Housing Program staff will continue to apply for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund and use the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Housing Service and the Senior Community Services Block Grant for match in the combined amount of \$200,000 to assist low-income elderly home owners with home repair. These grant monies will continue to be used for housing needs that are beyond the financial and physical maintenance abilities of the elder homeowner. The program is aimed at improving accessibility and addressing home repair needs to maintain a decent, safe and accessible environment for the homeowner.

CHAPTER VII **EVALUATION**

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

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

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

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

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

Countywide Prioritization

Buckeye Hills staff 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.

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

Technical Assistance

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

Result: All reviews have been completed in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations. The Clearinghouse reviewed twenty-six projects during fiscal year 2006. As a result of the Clearinghouse activities, communities in the region are informed about what is, and what will be taking place within the district in the near future.

The Buckeye Hills – Hocking Valley Regional Development District also provides technical assistance services to businesses, local units of government, public service providers, non-profit corporations, and other groups in our eight-county district. That technical assistance ranges from research, to project administration, project facilitation, application assistance, to assistance with technological issues, or any other area that Buckeye Hills may have resources that can be utilized to our constituents benefit.

Result: The Buckeye Hills staff provided technical support service by administering or participating in the following projects: 2005 and 2006 CDBG Formula Grant Program for Washington County, 2005 CDBG Formula Grant Program for Morgan County, West Malta Rural Water District Waterline Project (Morgan County), Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund, Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, the Brownfield Revitalization Program, the ARC/ Governor's Office of Appalachia Flood Recovery Program, the Village of Middleport Downtown Revitalization Program, Hocking College Energy Institute EDA Public Works Project, and many other projects including several upcoming infrastructure/ water and sewer projects. Several of these projects started or ended during fiscal year 2006, however many of these projects are currently ongoing.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Due to a change in our grant period, Buckeye Hills did not submit a CEDS Annual Report in September 2006, as has been required in the past. The next CEDS Annual Report is due June 30, 2007.

Result: Buckeye Hills' staff is in the process of completing the CEDS annual report. This annual report is due to the Chicago Regional Office on June 30, 2007. This report contains an update of the past years' activities, an updated statistics section, and an updated discussion of last years CEDS document and regional issues.

Geographic Information System Services (GIS)/Data Center Services

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

of the given data sources. The specialized maps that are created can be used for a number of purposes, such as: funding applications, reports, general research, media reports, or general problem analysis/ solving.

Result: During fiscal year 2006, Buckeye Hills continued to advertise and promote its GIS and GPS capabilities to community development professionals, economic development professionals, units of local government, public service providers (i.e. water companies), as well as non profit companies within the district. Our purpose in this regard is to assist in creating or finding new project opportunities in the region. Several new projects were identified during the grant period.

- Buckeye Hills staff continued to provide many hours of technical assistance and advice to the Morgan County Engineering Department as they continue work to establish a functioning GIS within their county.
- Buckeye Hills staff also forged a relationship with the Hocking College GIS department, as both parties are currently working on a potential water line/ water appurtenance data collection project for the West Malta Rural Water District in Morgan County.
- Buckeye Hills staff is currently serving on the Hocking College GIS advisory board. The purpose of this board is to help Hocking College establish academic and external experience curriculums that will aid graduates of the GIS program be prepared for entry into the field of spatiaial data collection and analysis.
- Buckeye Hills staff was contacted by the City of Marietta Greenspace Committee to provide GIS data and analysis to a project aimed at identifying and acquiring publicly held parcels that may be used for trails/parks/green space areas within the City of Marietta.

Late in 2005, Buckeye Hills formed a GIS user group, with the purpose of bringing together any local constituents who are undertaking GIS activities or projects with GIS components. This group is composed of roughly 20 members from many different fields and industries throughout the district. The GIS users group serves as a forum where individuals can ask questions, share project information, and hear information from local experts. This group holds meetings at the Buckeye Hills offices in Reno, Ohio. Meetings are not regularly scheduled, they are held on an ‘as needed/as demanded’ basis. The goal of this body is to meet a minimum of twice annually.

During the most recent GIS user groups meetings, OGRIP, the GIS body for the State of Ohio, held an outreach meeting at the Buckeye Hills office with members of the local GIS group on October 30, 2006. The meeting was attended by GIS professionals from throughout the state. Buckeye Hills also hosted a regional meeting for the upcoming Ohio Statewide Imagery Program (OSIP) with OGRIP and Woolpert Inc. on September 12, 2006.

The GIS department at Buckeye Hills also entered in to a series of agreements with Washington County (Ohio), and the City of Marietta for GIS coordination/data update services. Buckeye Hills' staff completed an initial project to convert existing engineering, physical, infrastructure, and natural resource data into GIS compatible format, usable by staff and other users throughout the county. Buckeye Hills also aided

officials from the City of Marietta and Washington County in securing services from an Ohio firm to provide updated software for GIS users throughout the county. As of this report Buckeye Hills staff is heading up efforts in the to deploy this recently purchased software to various departments within the City of Marietta, as well as several Washington County entities. Other responsibilities include providing staff training for the use and operation of this new software. As an ongoing activity Buckeye Hills staff will oversee updates to the various data sets identified by the City of Marietta and Washington County. This service provided by Buckeye Hills fostered high levels of coordination between local, city and county officials as they moved ahead with their pre-existing GIS initiatives.

During the past year Buckeye Hills continued to provide specialized map products on request to interested parties throughout the region. Examples of requesting bodies are; Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District, Monroe County Office of Economic Development, Marietta College Senior Business Consulting Class, local EMA offices, private engineers, ODOT, and private citizens. The number of requests for map data and other types of spatial requests are reflected in the totals for the Data Center, item VI in this report.

Regional Promotion

The Buckeye Hills staff continued to promote the economic development opportunities and activities throughout the region during fiscal year 2006. The purpose of our promotional activities is to attract new business and private investment to our eight-county district.

During the summer of 2006 the Buckeye Hills agency website underwent a complete renovation project. The purpose of this project was to completely update the existing website, and to combine f the available building and commercial property functionality found on another Buckeye Hills website, seovirtual.com.

Result: The new website has been well received, as not only did the agency get a renewed presence on the web, but this new website has the ‘available building and site’ functionality that is contained on our companion website www.seovirtual.com. Users can now utilize the Buckeye Hills website (www.buckeyehills.org) to find information on all of our available programming, publications, data, and staff, as well as browse available commercial properties and buildings throughout the region. Our website has received over 236,000 hits between July 1, 2006 and May 29, 2007; averaging 711 hits per day during that time.

In October 2006, Buckeye Hills was awarded a contract to administer the Economic Development Office and related activities of Monroe County, Ohio. Staff of Buckeye Hills is charged with the task of hiring new staff for this office, while continuing the operation of its existing programs and endeavors. Members of the Buckeye Hills staff are also providing technical assistance to the Economic Development office by aiding in grant and loan application preparation, providing extended data center

and information technology services, and establishing new standard operating procedures which will ultimately benefit staff production in this office.

Result: As a result of this program Buckeye Hills was able to achieve some positive overall results in Monroe County. A grant writer was hired to the staff located in the Black Walnut Center in Woodsfield Ohio. During the times prior to this activity by Buckeye Hills there was no long-term grant writer on staff. Buckeye Hills was also able to secure grant funding to help finish the remaining flooring of the Black Walnut Center in Woodsfield. These funds will allow this facility to be completely finished and available for rent or lease by businesses or other tenants. (The ‘Monroe Multi-Tenant Building’ was an EDA public works project in 2001.)

During this time Buckeye Hills also established a ‘communications specialist’ position within the development department, to improve our communication and coordination with local media outlets of all types. This new staff person is a resident of Monroe County and has been providing extensive coordination and technical assistance services to the Economic Development program in Monroe County. Overall the addition of this staff position is something Buckeye Hills has been working toward for a number of years, and we anticipate heavy utilization of this staff person’s expertise in the times to come.

Result: The communications director has spent extensive time acting as a media contact primarily in Monroe County during the administration of the Economic Development contract. The first major project completed was the complete redesign and re-launch of the Monroe County Economic Development & Tourism website (www.monroecountyohio.net). Numerous press releases and other news related items have been generated, released, and published in media outlets across the district, in regards to Buckeye Hills programming and other aspects of our operation.

Data Center

The Buckeye Hills Data Center continued to provide public and private entities with demographic and economic data. This data is used for various reasons, such as writing media reports, preparing grant applications, and educational research. The Data Center receives the most current data from federal and state data sources in both print and electronic formats. The Data Center is also an affiliate of the Business and Industry Data Center (BIDC), a service provided by regional planning and development agencies in Ohio.

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

Below is a summary of data requests for Fiscal Year 2006, between July 1, 2006 and May 29, 2007.

Organization	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Government	90	75.00%
Priv. Citizen	9	7.50%
Comm. Org/ Non. Prof.	8	6.67%
Business	7	5.83%
Acad./ Research	6	5.00%
Totals	120	

Type of Request	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Other GIS Map	28	23.33%
Census/GIS Map	21	17.50%
Population Community Prof.	20	16.67%
Misc.	19	15.83%
Income	17	14.17%
Labor Force	7	5.83%
Housing	7	5.83%
Housing	1	0.83%
Totals	120	

The Data Center received 120 requests between July 1st and May 29, 2007 (the time of this report). Services requests came from community organizations, private citizens, businesses, academic/ research bodies, and local units of government. Over seventy-five percent of the requests came from government agencies. Custom GIS map documents and related data were the most requested data from all parties during this time period.

3. Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.

Tri-County Water Project (2005)

Old Straitsville Water Project (2005)

West Malta Water Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Morgan County in successfully applying for CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding. This financing will complete 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 \$4,150,500.

Result: The CDBG Application was approved with construction scheduled to begin in the summer of 2007.

Bishopville Water Project

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

Result: The CDBG Application was approved with construction scheduled to begin in the summer of 2007.

Reno Water Project

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

Staff will assist the Washington County Commissioners is applying for CDBG Water and Sewer Funds. The CDBG application will be submitted in July 2007.

Noble County Water

Buckeye Hills will assist the Noble County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Noble County Water Authority. The project will extend water lines to serve approximately 36 residents along Ohio State Route 285 between the villages of Caldwell and Sarahsville creating a safe water supply to the residents. The cost of this project is estimated at \$628,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 4.5 miles of water line and services approximately 36 homes. The project will promote positive community growth.

Update: Staff will continue to assist the Noble County Commissioners in obtaining CDBG Water and Sewer Funds. The CDBG application will be submitted in July 2007.

Village of Chauncey Infrastructure (2005)

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 training programs for water and sanitary sewer system board members. Board members are being trained in management, fiscal operations, and system operations.

Coffee Ridge Water Project (2005)

Washington County Formula – 2003 (2005)

Washington County Formula – 2004 (2005)

Morgan County Formula – 2003 (2005)

Morgan County Formula – 2004 (2005)

State Capital Improvement/Local Transportation Improvement Program

The Community Development continued in its' role as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The 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 provided technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP application. The staff coordinated the activities of the various District 18 communities, which included, but were not limited to: setting up meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various SCIP/LTIP programs.

Result: Buckeye Hills Staff assisted the District 18 Integrating Committee in rating applications and activity coordination. The District 18 Integrating Committee has submitted 19 SCIP/LTIP applications and 10 Small Government applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission to compete statewide for funding. All 19 SCIP/LTIP projects are slated to receive funding and 4 out of the 10 Small Government Projects were funded.

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: Buckeye Hills Staff Assisted the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) in preparing applications to be submitted to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding.

Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program

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

Result: One community intends to submit an application for Clean Ohio Revitalization Funds. That application is due later this year.

Brownfield Revitalization

Buckeye Hills' staff continued to operate a Brownfield Revitalization fund in conjunction with the US EPA and the Clean Ohio Assistance fund. The staff assists communities in preparing and completing grant preparation and administration activities.

Result: Staff worked with three communities to apply for Clean Ohio Assistance Funds. All three applications received funding for Phase II Assessments. The assessments are being completed.

PEW (2005)

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

Hocking College Technology Center

Buckeye Hills will assisted the Hocking County Community Improvement Corporation and Hocking College in successfully applying for EDA Public Works funding for the Hocking College Energy Institute to be located adjacent to the Logan – Hocking Industrial Park in Logan. This facility will house a technical center for fuel cell and alternative energy research. Other space in this facility will be used for product testing, laboratories, classrooms, and business incubator space. The center will create approximately 75 new positions while saving 25 existing jobs.

Result: This project received final approval for \$1.6 million in funding from EDA in late March 2007. Work is still being completed to prepare this project for construction.

Revolving Loan Fund

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

Result: During fiscal year 2006, the Revolving Loan Fund closed eight loans, with \$744,073 in total loan assistance provided, and 66.5 jobs created and 24 retained.

Trickle Up Program

The Trickle Up grant program gave assistance to nine businesses within the region, with a total potential grant amount of \$6,300. Each grant is composed of two installments; the first being \$500, the second installment of \$200 is contingent on the completion of a business report after 3 months of operation. The total amount a recipient could receive is \$700. The total grant listed in this paragraph is an estimation based on the assumption that all grantees will complete the necessary items to receive the full \$700.

To supplement both of these entrepreneurial support endeavors, Buckeye Hills launched the Appalachianmarket.com (www.appalachianmarket.com) website during the spring of 2006. This website allows grantees from the Trickle Up program the opportunity to market and sell their crafts on a highly visible, professionally created and maintained website. This is an outstanding chance for these locally owned small businesses to market their products to people throughout the region, and the world. Without this program these businesses would most likely not have the opportunity to sell their products on the World Wide Web.

Business Technical Assistance

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

Result: Buckeye Hills continued its role as Regional Clearinghouse Reviewing twenty six projects from the region during FY '04.

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

Meigs Rio Grande

Buckeye Hills assisted the Meigs County Community Improvement Corporation and Rio Grande Community College in securing funding for the construction of a new educational

facility in Meigs County. The purpose is to provide advanced educational opportunities to the citizens of Meigs County.

Result: In May 2007, funding from ARC, the Governors Office of Appalachia, the State Capital Budget, and other sources, was approved for this project. The total estimated project costs are \$2,558,565. Activities are underway to prepare this project for construction.

Home Health Aide Training Program (2005)

Housing Program

The Buckeye Hills Housing Program continued to administer the Ohio Housing Assistance Grant Program, using the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Housing Service, the Senior Community Services Block Grant, and USDA- Rural Development funds for match in the combined amount of over \$200,000. The purpose of this program is to assist low-income elderly homeowners with home repairs. These grant monies are used for housing needs that are beyond the financial and physical maintenance abilities of the elder homeowner. The program addresses several issues such as accessibility and home repairs needed to maintain a decent, safe and accessible environment for the homeowner.

Result: During fiscal year 2006, 75 jobs were completed, affecting 90 beneficiaries in the district. The total amount expended on all work done during fiscal year 2006 was \$286,657.

CEDS 2006-2007

Table Appendix/ Source List

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- Table 3.22- Site Selection Project Totals. ‘Private Investment Survey 2004, 2005, 2006’, Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, February 2007.
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- Table 3.59- Washington County Components of Business Change. 'Ohio County Indicators 2006', Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, July 2006.
- Table 3.60- Direct Federal Payment to Individuals. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA35, June 2007.
- Table 3.61- Educational Attainment 2000. 'Ohio County Profiles 2005', Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, January 2005.

Table 3.62- Federal Grants Awarded (FY 2004). U.S. Census Bureau, 'Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2004: State and County Areas.' December 2005.

Table 3.64- Direct Federal Assistance (FY 2004). U.S. Census Bureau, 'Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2004: State and County Areas.' December 2005.

APPENDIX A

Administrative Staff

C. Boyer Simcox	Misty Casto
Executive Director	Co-Executive Director
Frederick Hindman	Dee Starkey
Assistant Executive Director	Secretary/Receptionist
Douglas Dye	Jen Myers
Director of Fiscal Operations	Program Assistant
Jennifer Andros	Deborah Parsons
Secretary/ Receptionist	Secretary/ Receptionist
Amanda Casto	Brenda Wolfe
Secretary/ Receptionist	Fiscal Assistant

Community Development Dept.

Melissa Zoller	Bret Allphin
Development Director	GIS Specialist
Tina Meunier	Michelle Hyer
Business Development Coordinator	Development Specialist
Charmel Wesel	Renee Wilde
Development Specialist	Development Specialist
Gwynn Clifford	
Communications Director	

Area Agency on Aging

Frederick Hindman	Mindy Cayton
Area Agency on Aging Director	Planner
Tim Johnson	Kimberly Steed
Area Agency on Aging Deputy Director	Screeener
Linda Myers	Kara Wright
Nutrition Coordinator	Screeener
Jack Rhoades	Darlene VanDine
Home Care Director	Care Coordinator
Kimberly Flanigan	Janie Collins
Long Term Care Ombudsman Director	Program Assistant
Diane Keith	Vicki Bennett
Long Term Care Volunteer Coordinator	Case Manager/ Assessor
Suzanne Lassiter	Patricia Biehl
Long Term Care Volunteer Coordinator	Case Manager/ Assessor
Denise Keyes	Kathryn Brammer
Fiscal Manager	Case Manager/ Assessor
Jane Skeen	Sandra Cisler
Clinical Operations Manager	Case Manager/ Assessor
Glenda Collins	Alta Coffman
Clinical Supervisor	Case Manager/ Assessor
Charlotte Riggs	Deborah Dunseath
Clinical Assistant	Case Manager/ Assessor
Kelli Lewis	Christina Horn
Clinical Assistant	Case Manager/ Assessor
Nancy Morris	Marie Hunsaker
Quality Improvement Coordinator	Case Manager/ Assessor
Misty Anderson	Kerry Nicholson
Quality Improvement Assistant	Case Manager/ Assessor
Judy Kuhn	Veronica Norman
Quality Improvement Assistant	Case Manager/ Assessor
James Lewis	Teresa Porter
MIS Manager	Case Manager/ Assessor
Kellie Cunningham	Denise Sava
MIS Operator	Case Manager/ Assessor
Cathy Ash	Betsy Silk
Trainer	Case Manager/ Assessor
	Jamie Stropkai
	Case Manager/ Assessor

APPENDIX B

Issues Covered

State of the economy

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

External trends and forces

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

Partners for economic development

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

Resources for economic development

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

APPENDIX C

2007CEDS 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	

APPENDIX D

Discussion Notes

CEDS Meeting #1, June 14, 2006

Attendees:

Bret Allphin
Rick Hindman
John Curtis
Mike Lloyd
Darlene Lukshin
Mike Jacoby
Terri Tamburini
Peg Grannis

The meeting came to order at 1 pm.

Main topics of discussion were:

- State of the regional economy
- Strengths and weaknesses of the region

Noted comments:

- Upon examination of last years 5 goals for economic development in the region, several questions were raised. One of the questions concerned the use of the word 'regionalism.' As we used this term last year we intended for it to mean negative competition between close geographic neighbors over the same resource/project. In reality 'regionalism' in the economic development sense means working together as a region to promote similar goals and objectives, while working as a team to accomplish those objectives. Some members of the committee suggested we use the word 'parochialism' to describe some of the negative infighting that from time to time takes place within our district. We also realized that with 'regionalism' the political capital gained from a project can go across political boundaries, unlike other aspects of projects.
- Members of the committee also debated the use of the word 'geographic' in the strength statement "unique geographic features". The word 'topographic' was suggested as a more suitable term to describe our natural resources such as forests, streams, valleys, and the like. We also discussed the weakness statement 'rugged topography makes continued development difficult.' Members felt that this could also be a strength to our area as it adds to our level of scenic and natural beauty.

- The goal statement of ‘continue to improve infrastructure of all types’ was discussed as well. Members stated that telecommunications infrastructure is now just as vital to attracting businesses (and residents) to an area as water and sewer is. Members stated it is almost impossible to do business effectively without high speed internet access in the current market, and Appalachia’s lack of deployment continues to be a weakness for the region. Technologies that were cutting edge nearly two years ago are bordering on insufficient for success in today’s market. The committee feels that increased telecommunication capabilities are absolutely crucial in the success of business in Southeast Ohio. Some felt there was a lack of supply (service) in the area, some felt there was a lack of demand in the area; ultimately creating a catch 22 for companies proposing technology investments in our area. These are the types of issues that plague major service providers such as Verizon when they are considering expanding services in to areas of the district. The issue of whether or not there is enough ‘critical mass’ or initial investment to spur a large scale deployment, was debated.
- Many members of the committee felt that the next wave of economic development in our area would likely be in the entrepreneurial/ small business area. The point was made that many people accept lower salaries, etc. in order to stay in the area if at all possible. With these people having fewer and fewer choices in terms of possible employers, some felt this would lead to the inevitable rise of entrepreneurialism and small business development.
- We touched on the concept that this area is a truly desirable place to live, as was covered in the previous paragraph.
- This discussion led to the topic of ‘how are we competing with our neighbors?’ We agreed it was difficult to compare ourselves with a state such as West Virginia, due to the large difference in our relative sizes. For example, we compared the cities of Parkersburg and Marietta as approximate equals. In West Virginia, Parkersburg is one of the largest cities, and garners significant attention from state officials in terms of economic development. On the other hand, Marietta is a relatively small city in terms of the entire state, as many areas are larger, and much so. Therefore projects and activities in Marietta don’t hit the ‘radar’ as hard as activities in Parkersburg do in West Virginia. It was noted that the ‘point of entry’ for a business may be easier in West Virginia (Ohio is more systematic and rigid), yet overall when considering long term existence, the advantages of Ohio appear to outweigh those of West Virginia.
- Several members raised the point that the strength statement of ‘continued low cost of living’ was inaccurate, and should be changed to ‘continued low cost of doing business.’
- The discussion then turned to our local workforce, in an attempt to describe and analyze it. Some members who regularly deal with employers felt that the work ethic of our area, especially among younger workers, is not as strong as

- previously was thought. This may be one factor leading to the high amount of job turnover experienced among young people in our area. Morgan County has completed a 'Human Capital Assessment' which analyzed the available workforce in Morgan County.
- Along these same lines, members wondered how we could truly measure our educational system against
 - It was noted that our area has an obvious lack of diversity, not only racially, but in other areas such as business. The fact that our area is lacking in diversity was cited as one reason we have a difficult time retaining our educated young people.
 - Members noted that improvements to infrastructure are still happening all around us (i.e. corridor D, etc.).
 - We debated the goal statement 'focus in attracting 'new technology' types of jobs and investments rather than focusing on general manufacturing and retail expansions'. Members debated that in this area, there are many examples of very high tech processes being applied to traditional industries, such as manufacturing. One example given was that of Solvay Advanced Polymers in Marietta, which recently announced a substantial expansion to provide space for new technologies to be applied to their polymer manufacturing processes.
 - Environmental issues are still sometimes a factor influencing development in our district. (i.e. Brownfields, etc)
 - Members also debated the concept of trying to locate new, more accurate economic/statistical indicators that would provide a better view of the local economy and the industries and residents that constitute it. 'What is the data NOT telling us?'

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Discussion Notes

CEDS Meeting #2, June 28, 2006

Attendees:

Bret Allphin
Rick Hindman
Mike Lloyd
Darlene Lukshin
Mike Jacoby
Terri Tamburini
Peg Grannis
Mark Forni
Tina Meunier
Jennifer Simon

The meeting came to order at 1 pm.

Main topics of discussion were:

- Vision and goals for our district
- Action plan; 'how do we get there?'

Noted comments:

- The first topic brought up by the committee was the use of the term 'regionalism.' We discussed the fact that there needs to be some type of 'balance of needs' for a district like ours that is very different both geographically and economically. 'You can't always think regional.' Counties are not equal, communities are not equal, sometimes you need to define what qualifies as a 'commonality' between places. **The essence of regionalism is cooperation in the scope of work, not just cooperation on a project by project basis.**
- Infrastructure continues to be imperative as both a need and a goal. (i.e. Lack of residential water is still a problem)
- Aside from all the other issues we have discussed surrounding economic development, our district still needs to put forth a serious effort to develop potential sites on a very basic level. "Highway accessibility is still the king."
- Several counties, Noble for example, had instituted criteria for a project ranking program within the county. While it worked well for a while, and the concept was great, local politicians (commissioners, mayors, etc.) had their own 'pet' projects that did not necessarily rank high according to the established criteria. After a while these politicians started side stepping the project ranking efforts, they

- effectively ‘ignored the list.’ Members stated there was a lack of ‘political cohesiveness’ needed to make the criteria and the rankings work as they were intended to. Great idea, but hard to effectively implement. Some members felt that in some cases and with some projects, it was not ‘logical’ to stick to the criteria. Local participants basically said ‘my project is #1 on my list all day every day.’ ‘While it is hard to implement, **it is still a good idea.**’
- In reference to the comments above about project criteria/ project ranking, these are many of the same problems we are experiencing in Ohio with budget earmarks. Politicians are side stepping the project development and funding processes of organizations such as ARC. Essentially one person, or a few people in congress are now selecting projects for the local people, completely sidestepping the established process. The members in the room were extremely unhappy with this because not only does this take the local project selection process out of their hands, it leaves communities with less money to work with because these earmark projects are taken ‘off the top’ before budgets are set for the other programs utilized by these municipalities. **As a result of these actions, the state/local/federal partnership is compromised and damaged.**
 - Based on these discussions we then spoke about mobilizing advocacy efforts to keep parties in the district informed of current events, such as state budgetary issues, etc. This advocacy could help us get program adjustments made that would more closely fit our needs in rural Ohio.
 - We also revisited the broadband issue in our region. Members felt that there were some programs out there that communities could possibly seize upon to establish or expand broadband capabilities in their communities. However, in order to fully and correctly implement these programs, there needs to be some existing expertise available to the community, some members felt the expertise needed to implement these programs was lacking in our area. Some felt that here we were caught in a ‘catch 22’ of sorts, as far as attracting broadband without expertise, and keeping expertise without broadband. If the broadband concept is to truly take off in this area, it needs to be a priority in order to attract the talent needed to maximize the potential of this technology. Right now major providers aren’t overly willing to commit resources to areas such as ours.
 - We spent some time discussing the term ‘Appalachian.’ Some members felt we needed to treat this term like a brand name, and use it to our advantage, assign a positive image/perception to it. There was some discussion about how this term isn’t necessarily always negative; sometimes it works in our favor, with funding sources, etc. There seems to be an inside perception of Appalachia and an outside perception of Appalachia. “We are what we are, and we have to work with what we’ve got.”
 - The ‘entrepreneurial spirit’ of our area was discussed as well. The point was brought up that it is unlikely that we will have the ‘big boxes’ locating in our area

with regularity in the future. The small business/ entrepreneur will pick up where the lack of these major 'big box' investments will be lacking. As a side point on this topic some felt we need to have incentives based on and for individual businesses, not for 'failing industries.' **The focus on creating a certain number of jobs has superseded the need to create quality jobs.** The point was also made that we don't put enough effort in keeping or enhancing the jobs we already have. This was a topic discussed last year as well. **'All these things take a long time to develop, are we prepared to wait?'**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.