

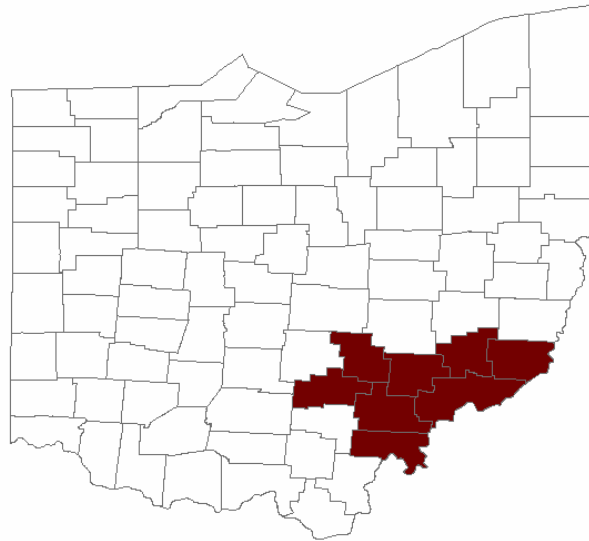


**Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley**  
*Regional Development District*

**2008**

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

**Annual Report**



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

# Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:

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

Prepared for:

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

The preparation of the document was financed in part through a grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Ohio Department of Development and through contributions from the member jurisdictions of the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District.

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General Policy Council - Hocking County

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Private Sector - Monroe County

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**Misty Casto**  
**Executive Director**

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## **FORWARD**

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

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

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

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

Comments on this report may be addressed to:

Planning Coordinator  
Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District  
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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.

## **2008 CEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

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

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





**Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley Regional Development District**

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





## **CHAPTER I** **ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION**

### **Buckeye Hills Mission Statement:**

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

### **Organizational History:**

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

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

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

### **Staff Structure**

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

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – 2008 Annual Report

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

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

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

### **CEDS Advisory Committee**

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

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

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

### **CEDS Planning Process**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CHAPTER II**  
**PAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES**

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

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

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

## **I. CEDS Update**

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

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

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

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

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

## **II. Provision of Timely Employment Data to EDA/EDR**

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

## **III. Technical Assistance**

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

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

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

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

### **Village of Middleport Downtown Revitalization**

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

### **Monroe County Black Walnut Center Renovation Project**

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

### **Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Acquisition Project**

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

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

### **Monroe County Economic Development Contract**

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

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

### **Housing Program**

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



## **Other Planning Activities**

### **North Muskingum River Corridor**

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

### **State Route 32/ U.S. 50 Corridor Study**

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

### **State Route 32/ State Route 78 Corridor Advisory Board**

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

### **Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission**

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

### **Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board**

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

### **RENEW Ohio-18**

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

### **Employee Workforce Assessment**

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

### **Intergovernmental Review**

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

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

## **IV. Water & Sewer**

### **Countywide Prioritization**

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

### **West Malta Water Project**

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

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

### **Reno Water Project**

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

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

### **Noble County Water**

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

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

### **Bishopville Water Project**

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

### **Amesville Sewer Project**

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

### **Tuppers Plains Water and Sewer District**

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

**V. CDBG Formula Allocation**

**Washington County Formula -2006**

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

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

**Washington County Formula -2007**

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

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

**VI. State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program**

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

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

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

## **VII. Conservation Activities**

### **Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program**

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

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

## **VIII. Brownfield Revitalization**

### **Brownfields**

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

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

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

### **Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program**

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

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

## **IX. Geographical Information Systems**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

## **X. Data Center**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Data Requests  
Ranked by Number of Requests**

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

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

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

**XI. Business Assistance Programs/ Entrepreneurial Support Programs**

**Revolving Loan Fund/ Trickle Up Grant Program**

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

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

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

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

## **XII. Regional Promotion**

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

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

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

### **Communications Director Position**

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

**CHAPTER III**  
**REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Constituency**

**Population profile**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Continued on Next Page.)

**Performance Measures**

**People**

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

\* Rate of births in women age 15-44

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

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

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

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

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

### Employment

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

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

### Income

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

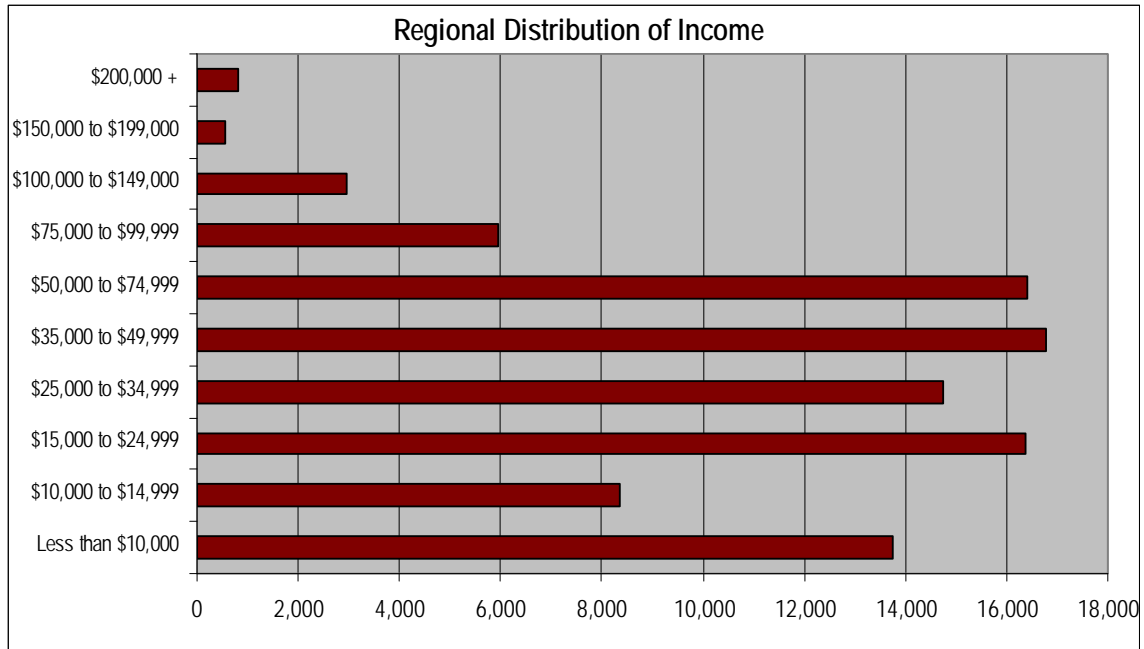
	All	Related Children Under 18	18+	65+
Ohio	10.6	14	10.9	8.1
BHHVRDD	16.0	18.9	14.8	12.6
Athens	27.4	21.2	28.8	12.9
Hocking	13.5	15.8	12.6	14.5
Meigs	19.8	26.3	17.7	14.5
Monroe	13.9	18.3	12.5	11.4
Morgan	18.4	25.1	16.1	12.4
Noble	11.4	13.9	10.3	11.9
Perry	11.8	15.2	10.3	12.7
Washington	11.4	15.7	9.9	10.2

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

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

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

(Continued on Next Page)



**Quality of Life**

**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 illustrated in Table 3.06.

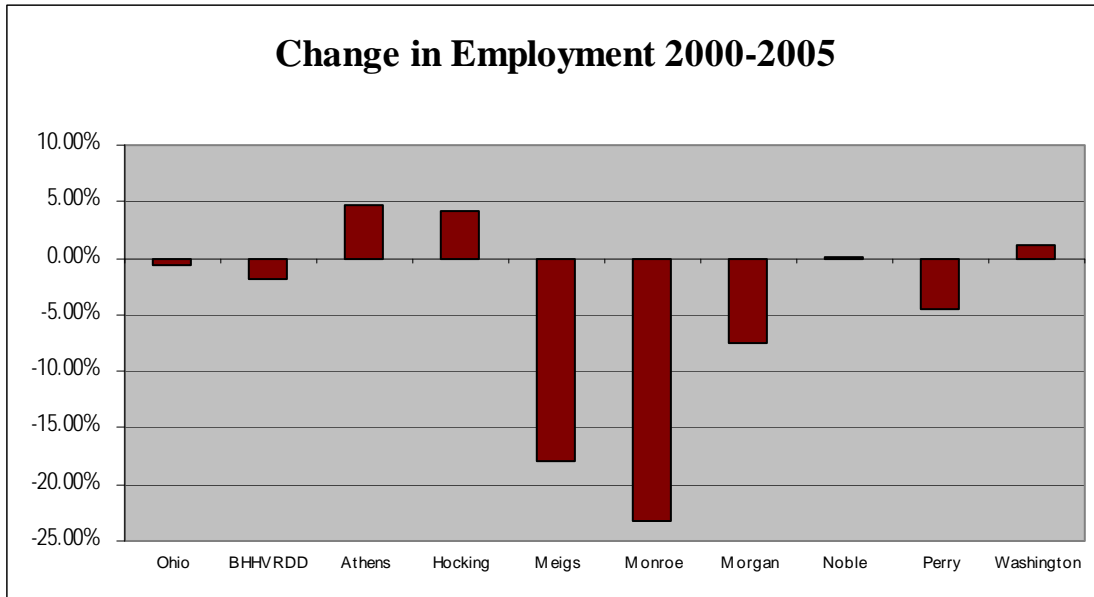
### Economic Structure

#### **Jobs**

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

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

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



**Private Investment**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Public Investment (Procurement)

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

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



### Regional Labor Profile

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Table 3.28 - Regional Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector**

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

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

### Athens County Economics

**Table 3.29 -Athens County Civilian Labor Force**

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

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

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

Table 3.30 - Athens County- Employment by Industrial Sector

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Hocking County Economics

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

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

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

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

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

(Continued on Next Page)

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

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

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

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

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



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

**Meigs County Economics**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Monroe County Economics**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Morgan County Economics**

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

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

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

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

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

(Continued on Next Page)



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

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

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

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

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

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

### Noble County Economics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Perry County Economics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Washington County Economics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

**Economic Resources**

**Government Assistance**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Educational Attainment**

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

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

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

## **CHAPTER IV** **REGIONAL ISSUES**

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

### **State of the economy**

#### **Strengths and weaknesses of the region**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Growth sectors of the economy**

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



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

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

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

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

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

### **Driving force of economy**

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

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

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

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

### **External trends and forces**

#### **Opportunities and threats**

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

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

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

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

### **Regional position in the national and global economies**

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

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

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

### **Partners for economic development**

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

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

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

### **Presenters of important but unfamiliar economic development issues**

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

### **Resources for economic development**

#### **Groups and organizations available to the region**

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

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

#### **Support and funding for development activities**

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

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

## **CHAPTER V**

### **VISION**

#### **Regional Vision**

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

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

#### **Regional Goals**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Work to curb ‘regionalism’ (negative competition).**

What is the severity of the problem?

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

What is the scope?

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

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

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

Does the goal make best use of existing resources?

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

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

What is the severity of the problem?

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



What is the scope?

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

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

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

Does the goal make best use of existing resources?

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

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

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

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

**Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.**

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

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

What is the scope of the goal?

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

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

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

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

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

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

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

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

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

What is the scope of the goal?

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

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

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

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

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

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

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

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

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

What is the scope of the goal?

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

What is this goal in relationship toward the other goals?

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

Does this goal make the best use of existing resources?

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

**Additional Discussion:**

**Promoting a Regional Approach to Community and Economic Development**

**Regional Approach – Obstacles and Benefits**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Watershed Areas and Sustainable Development:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Establishing Local Support for the Regional Approach**

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

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



## **CHAPTER VI** **ACTION PLAN**

### **Work to Curb Regionalism (Negative Competition)**

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

#### **Strengths and Weakness:**

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

#### **Strategies:**

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

#### **Implementation:**

##### Short-term

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

##### Intermediate-term

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

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

Long-term

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

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

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

**Strengths and Weakness:**

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

**Strategies:**

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

**Implementation:**

Short-term

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

Intermediate-term

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

Long-term

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

**Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.**

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

**Strengths and Weakness:**

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

**Strategies:**

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

- Coordinate efforts between transportation planners and economic development practitioners.

**Implementation:**

Short-term

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

Intermediate-term

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

Long-term

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

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

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

**Strengths and Weakness:**

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

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

**Strategies:**

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

**Implementation:**

Short-term

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

Intermediate-term

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

Long-term

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

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

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

**Strengths and Weakness:**

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

**Strategies:**

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

**Implementation:**

Short-term

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

Intermediate-term

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

Long-term

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

## **Implementation Plan**

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

### **2008 CEDS Projects**

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

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

### **Project Prioritization Criteria**

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

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

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

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – 2008 Annual Report

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

UPDATED 2/6/09

\*Distress level determined using FY 2008 ARC information.

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

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

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

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



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

### **Planning Programs and Activities**

#### **2009 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Report (CEDS)**

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

#### **Geographic Information System Services (GIS)/Data Center Services**

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

#### **Solicitation and Completion of GIS Related Projects/ Projects with GIS**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Regional Promotion**

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

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

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

### **Business Technical Assistance**

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

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

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

### **Community & Economic Development Activities**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **CHAPTER VII** **EVALUATION**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Countywide Prioritization**

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

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

### **Provision of Timely Employment Data to EDA/EDR**

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



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

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

### **Monroe County Economic Development Contract**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Intergovernmental Review**

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

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

### **Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Acquisition Project**

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

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

### **Technical Assistance**

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

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

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

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

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

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

### **Geographical Information System Services (GIS)/ Data Center Services**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Regional Promotion**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Communications Director Position**

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

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

### **Data Center**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Data Requests**  
Ranked by Number of Requests

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

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

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

**3. Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.**

**Village of Middleport Downtown Revitalization**

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

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

**Monroe County Black Walnut Center Renovation Project**

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

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

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

### **West Malta Water Project**

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

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

### **Bishopville Water Project**

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

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

### **Reno Water Project**

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

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

### **Noble County Water**

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

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

### **Amesville Sewer Project**

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

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

### **Tuppers Plains Water and Sewer District**

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

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

### **Washington County Formula -2006**

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

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



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

### **Washington County Formula -2007**

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

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

### **State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program**

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

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

### **Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program**

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

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

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

### **Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program**

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

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

### **Brownfield Revitalization**

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

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

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

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

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

### **North Muskingum River Corridor**

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

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

### **State Route 32/ U.S. 50 Corridor Study**

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

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

### **State Route 32/ State Route 78 Corridor Advisory Board**

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

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

**Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission**

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

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

**Tri-County Water Project (2005)**

**Old Straitsville Water Project (2005)**

**PEW (2005)**

**Village of Chauncey Infrastructure (2005)**

**Water and Sewer Board Member Training (2006-2007)**

**Coffee Ridge Water Project (2005)**

**Washington County Formula – 2003 (2005)**

**Washington County Formula – 2004 (2005)**

**Washington County Formula – 2005 (2006-2007)**

**Morgan County Formula – 2003 (2005)**

**Morgan County Formula – 2004 (2005)**

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

**Revolving Loan Fund**

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

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

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

### **Trickle Up Grant Program**

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

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

### **Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board**

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

### **RENEW Ohio-18**

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

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

### **Employee Workforce Assessment**

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

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

### **Hocking College Technology Center (2006-2007)**

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

### **Housing Program**

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

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

### **Meigs Rio Grande (2006-2007)**

### **Home Health Aide Training Program (2005)**

## CEDS 2008

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## APPENDIX A

### **Administrative Staff**

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

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

### **Community Development Dept.**

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

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

### **Area Agency on Aging**

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

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

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Issues Covered**

#### **State of the economy**

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

#### **External trends and forces**

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

#### **Partners for economic development**

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

#### **Resources for economic development**

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

**APPENDIX C**

**2008 CEDS Project Prioritization Criteria**

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