

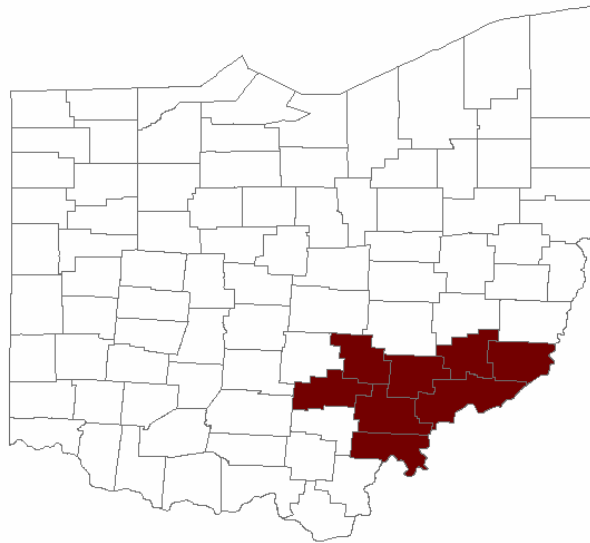


Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley
Regional Development District

2009

**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

2009

ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:

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

Prepared for:

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

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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General Policy Council - Morgan County

Honorable John Pyles
Monroe County

Honorable Virgil Thompson – Vice President
Noble County

Honorable Dean Cain
Morgan County

Honorable Sam Cook – Treasurer -
Washington County

Honorable Fred Shriner
Perry County

Honorable Paul Wiehl
City of Athens

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Washington County

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Private Sector – Meigs County

Honorable John Walker
Hocking County

John Curtis
Private Sector - Monroe County

Honorable Fred Hawk
Hocking County

Honorable Mick Davenport
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Honorable John Walker
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Fred Hawk
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Vacant

*Alternate

Misty Casto
Executive Director

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FORWARD

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

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

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

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

Comments on this report may be addressed to:

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

Telephone: 740.374.9436
Email: info@buckeyehills.org.

MISSION

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

2009 CEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

Private Business Representative	Daniel Allwine President Austral Engineering & Software
Public Official	Perry Varnadoe Economic Development Director Meigs County Office of Economic Development
Public Official	Mike Jacoby Director Southeastern Ohio Port Authority
Public Official	Shannon Wells Director Morgan County Commissioners Development Office
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 Manager



Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley Regional Development District

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





CHAPTER I **ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION**

Buckeye Hills Mission Statement:

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

Organizational History:

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

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

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

Staff Structure

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

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

BH-HVRDD is comprised of two functional areas/departments, as well as administration; all told these total 59 employees (57 full time, 2 part time): The Development Department and The Area Agency on Aging. Below is a summary of service for the Buckeye Hills Development Department.

Name	Position	Years of Service
Misty Casto	Executive Director	15
Melissa Zoller	Development Director	8
Michelle Hyer	Development Specialist	11
Bret Allphin	GIS Manager	8
Charmel Wesel	Development Specialist	2
Tina Meunier	RLF Coordinator	4
Gwynn Clifford	Communications Director	2
Jenny Myers	Program Assistant	5
Amanda Casto	Secretary/ Receptionist	2
Deanna Starkey	Secretary/ Receptionist	4

CEDS Advisory Committee

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

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

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

CEDS Planning Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAPTER II
PAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

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

During Fiscal Year 2008, 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. Positive Media References -EDA
- IV. Technical Assistance;
- V. Water and Sewer;
- VI. CDBG Formula Allocation Program;
- VII. State Capital Improvement Program/Local Transportation Improvement Program;
- VIII. Conservation Activities;
- IX. Brownfield Revitalization;
- X. Geographical Information Systems;
- XI. Data Center Services;
- XII. Business Assistance Programs/ Entrepreneurial Support Programs
- XIII. 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'08 CEDS Update were as follows:

- The staff held two planning sessions during the spring and summer of 2009 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 2009 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, 2009.

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, 2008 and April 16, 2009, we received notification of three 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. Positive Media References

As a requirement of the Renewable Planning Investment Award, Buckeye Hills is monitoring local media outlets for positive references to the Economic Development Administration. During this period, Buckeye Hills was unaware of any major references to the EDA in the local media. However, there continues to be news interest surrounding the EDA in relation to a 2006 grant award that garnered significant local and even some regional and national attention: the public works grant awarded to Hocking College for the construction of their Energy Institute, located outside of Logan, Ohio. The EDA has been mentioned in relation to this project on several websites such as the Ohio PUCO, Ohio University, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Columbus Dispatch, Columbus News, Haydocy Automotive, and others. (This is not an exhaustive list of web references, only those we are aware of.)

IV. Technical Assistance

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

Over the past year, Development Department staff secured financing for various projects that 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.

During 2007-2008 Buckeye Hills participated in a total of 108 projects, with a total project cost of \$67,907,099. Administrative cost totals for these projects were \$884,109. For every one dollar in administration funds, Buckeye Hills leveraged \$76.81 in project funds. From these projects 1,325 jobs were created or retained

Housing Program

During fiscal year 2008, Buckeye Hills continued to operate a housing modification and minor home repair program. This program focuses on combating issues such as rural homelessness and affordable housing. This program also provides other services such as small home repairs that allow seniors to remain in their own homes, 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, the Senior Community Services Title III Block Grant and funds from the U.S.D.A. Rural Development program.

Last year these funds were used to do handicap accessibility needs and minor home repair to 26 homes owned by senior citizens in our eight county region.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act/ Regional Prioritization

Buckeye Hills Development staff assisted the counties in our region in identifying and preparing projects that may be eligible for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Buckeye Hills contacted each city and village mayor, board of county commissioners, county engineer's office, and other contributing parties to inform them of the project submission process and to gather details on potentially eligible projects. A total of 87 projects were submitted to the recovery.ohio.gov website as a result of Buckeye Hills Development department efforts.

Other Planning Activities

State Route 32/ U.S. 50 Corridor Study

Buckeye Hills continues to participate in activities contributing to the completion of the SR 32/ US 50 Corridor Study. During 2007 and 2008, 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. This program has been extended in order to expand the overall scope of this study. This project is scheduled to conclude in December 2009.

Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission

Buckeye Hills continued to participate on the advisory board of the Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission. The purpose of this

commission is to keep public officials and local agencies informed about transportation projects proposed and underway in Wood, Washington, and Wirt counties in southern Ohio and western West Virginia.

Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board

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

Development District of Appalachia (DDAA)

Buckeye Hills has been an active member of the Development District of Association of Appalachia, which is an organization made up of all 74 local development districts encompassing the 420 Appalachian counties in the United States. Buckeye Hills staff in prior years only participated as a member organization, but now has staff on the DDAA board, and the DDAA training committee. Buckeye Hills has been heavily involved in planning the DDAA GIS Training Conference for the past 3 years. The conference was most recently held in Huntsville Alabama on March 31 and April 1, 2009.

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.

Out of these collaborative workings, broadband coverage for rural Ohio has emerged as a major objective set forth by Congressman Space. All three Ohio LDD's worked closely in late 2008 to begin forming a major broadband coverage project/ concept, which continues to gain momentum today. Sources of funding are being evaluated and considered for a potential application during 2009.

Connect Ohio

During the past year Buckeye Hills staff has been actively participating in the planning and visioning process initiated by Connect Ohio. The main objective of

this group is to spread the availability and adoption of high speed internet service across Ohio, while also expanding the overall use and adoption of computers by Ohio's populous. Connect Ohio has also undertaken an initiative to more accurately map existing broadband services and facilities currently available throughout the state. This group has been holding community based meetings in all 88 counties with the focus on helping counties identify potential projects that will improve the aforementioned areas, as well as identify areas of local expertise, local partners, and potential funding sources for these identified projects.

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 54 projects during fiscal year 2008.

Census 2010

Buckeye Hills was a participant in the Census Bureau Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), an activity undertaken in preparation for the 2010 Census. Census Bureau documentation describes the program activities and goals as the following:

“The 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) will allow designated participants, following Census Bureau guidelines and criteria, to review and update the boundaries for block groups, census tracts, and review and update the boundaries of and define new census designated places (CDPs). The goal of the PSAP is to define meaningful, relevant census tracts, block groups, and CDPs to obtain meaningful, relevant small area and place-level statistical data. The updated boundaries for census tracts, block groups, and CDPs will frame all the 2010 Census tabulations, and will be used for the American Community Survey (ACS) beyond 2010. Data tabulated to these PSAP geographic entities are used by various local, state, and federal agencies and organizations for planning and funding purposes, as well as the private sector, academia, and the public.”

Training for this program was held in Columbus during November 2008. Work on reevaluating and updating Census Tract and Block Group geographies for all eight member counties was completed by Buckeye Hills staff and submitted to U.S. Census Bureau – Detroit staff in March 2009.

V. Water & Sewer

West Malta Water Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Morgan County in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to approximately 200 households in Malta and Penn Townships. This project will 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 was started in September 2007.

The West Malta Rural Water Project suffered a long delay due to contractor issues. All 22 miles of water line have been installed, with total project costs at this time of \$2,784,326. No low-to-moderate-income water hookups are complete at this time. New contractors have been identified and construction activities should resume during the spring of 2009. All construction is scheduled to be completed by December 2009.

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, and construction began in January 2008. The project involves the installation of approximately 7 miles of water line and services approximately 65 homes. The project will promote positive community growth.

General construction on the Reno Water Project was completed in January 2009, installing 50,274 LF of waterline along nine miles, and serving 65 households with clean water. Total project cost was \$756,760. Reclamation activities have yet to be completed.

Noble County Water

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

The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funds for the Noble County Water Project. Environmental Review work has been completed. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2009.

Amesville Sewer Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Village of Amesville in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that financed a sewer service project to approximately 71 households and 13 businesses. The estimated cost of the project was \$1,089,858.25, and construction began in July 2007.

CDBG funds were used to complete installation of sewer hook-ups to 27 low-to-moderate-income households. Total project cost was \$1,315,768, which included engineering and inspection, and the provision of improved wastewater service to 71 households and 13 businesses. General construction for The Village of Amesville Decentralized Sewer Project was completed in October 2008.

VI. CDBG Formula Allocation

Washington County Formula -2007

Buckeye Hills served as administrators 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.

Staff is currently administering the 2007 Washington County Formula Grant, which includes the following activities: improvements and purchase of equipment for one senior center; home/building repair for the county; and fire protection for two townships. The total project cost for the above projects will be approximately \$315,566. At the time of this report, only one project remains to be completed.

Washington County Formula -2008

Buckeye Hills served as administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2008, assisting the grantee by; assuring that the selected projects in Washington County comply with funding requirements; checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations; participating in the bidding process for contracts; attending pre-construction conferences; completing status reports; consulting with independent auditor at the time of final audit; and

replying to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners.

Staff assisted Washington County by completing the CDBG application for 2008. Funding was secured in the amount of \$172,000, to be used on the following projects: home repair for the county; purchase of equipment for one fire department; building construction/renovation on one fire department and one senior center; one historical building renovation for ADA purposes; and fair housing activities for the county. Total project costs are estimated at \$500,785. All projects are currently out for bid.

VII. State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program/ Job Ready Sites

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

Buckeye Hills staff assisted the District 18 Integrating Committee in rating applications and activity coordination. The District 18 Integrating Committee has submitted 20 SCIP/LTIP applications and 10 Small Government applications from Round 23 to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding.

Job Ready Sites

As the Liaison for District 18 of the Ohio Public Works Commission, Buckeye Hills also administers the Ohio Job Ready Sites Program. The Ohio Job Ready sites (JRS) program is intended to stimulate the compilation and development of large parcels of land, and in some cases large buildings, that ultimately will attract significant investments and create high wage job opportunities for Ohioans.

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 or consideration for funding under the JRS program.

No applications were received for this program during the reporting period.

VIII. Conservation Activities

Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program

The Community Development Staff serves as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, 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 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.

Staff accepted eight (8) applications totaling \$1,129,965. Applications will be sent to Ohio Public Works Commission in January 2009, with approval coming by March 2009.

IX. Brownfield Revitalization

Brownfields

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

Buckeye Hills staff worked with Hocking County's on-going application to revitalize a brownfield property. The application is currently pending and is intended for submission in late 2009 for Clean Ohio funds.

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

The Community Development staff continued to administer the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority's U.S. EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant Program. This

program provides grant funds for Phase I and II environmental studies on petroleum affected Brownfield sites that have the potential for redevelopment and reuse. Two phase I studies and one phase II study were completed during 2007. Two additional applicants are awaiting additional BUSTR information before proceeding with phase I studies.

Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program

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

No applications were received for funding during the year.

X. Geographical Information Systems

As a requirement of the Renewable Planning Investment Award, Buckeye Hills is continuing to operate and extend a GIS system for the eight county region that houses, distributes, and displays detailed information about the district.

Buckeye Hills has been operating a GIS mapping system for the eight-county region since the mid 1990's. Between that time and now, the GIS mapping program has become the most requested data source in the Buckeye Hills Development Department. During the period of July 1, 2008 to April 17, 2009, Buckeye Hills received a combined total of 113 requests for Census mapping, Census map data, and other non-Census GIS data and customized maps.

Buckeye Hills uses GIS to make program decisions, to complete funding applications, as an informational tool for local organizations, and to promote many other economic development activities within our region. An example of some of the groups that utilized Buckeye Hills GIS services, and the projects Buckeye Hills staff completed during the reporting period are listed below:

City of Marietta – Updated corporation line, updated zoning data (in progress), flood modeling and early flood warning project, and GPS data collection of water distribution and public wastewater services (in progress).

Further major economic development activities are severely hampered in the City of Marietta due to the fact that the current wastewater processing facility is over-capacity, and cannot accept any new large service connections without a plant upgrade. The data being collected is being used to analyze the current system capacity and to assist in planning the needed upgrades.

Washington County – Updated digital tax map files, updated and corrected street centerline data, updated and corrected county addressing data, creation of Emergency Service Zones (911), creation of wireless telephone carrier tower data, update of voting districts and polling places, and creation of voting maps in support of 2008 elections.

Village of Racine (Meigs County) – GPS collection of water meters, public water valves, fire hydrants, digitized water main lines, addressing information, and completion of natural gas distribution data.

This data was collected and is being used as the mayor actively seeks to attract economic development opportunities (i.e. retail expansion, housing development, etc) to this small village in southern Meigs County.

Meigs County – Buckeye Hills was contacted by a group of mayors and local water superintendents he head up an effort to collect public water and sewer distribution mapping data. The purpose of this effort is to create a single map showing all the public water and wastewater facilities operating in Meigs County. This will allow for greater knowledge of community resources, and has been written in parallel with an existing mutual aid agreement between these entities in Meigs County.

These are just some of the projects Buckeye Hills has participated in during the specified period. Buckeye Hills has also worked with local soil and water districts, convention and visitor bureaus, local educational groups, port authorities, economic development groups, and private citizens.

Buckeye Hills has been actively organizing GIS activities across the district in order to produce and maintain highly accurate geographic data that can be used for many purposes, with one of the principal uses being economic development. An example of this coordination is the establishment and ongoing organization of the Washington County GIS Users Group. This body meets monthly to discuss issues, questions, and opportunities as they relate to GIS data, mapping and their applied use across the county. In addition to this, the Buckeye Hills GIS Manager has been playing a central role in the rapid growth and expansion of a new county-wide GIS system recently deployed in Washington County. Along with these activities, Buckeye Hills also participates on a GIS Advisory Committee and Technical Users Group in Athens County, as well as a GIS/GPS Educational

Curriculum Committee at Hocking College in Nelsonville Ohio. Buckeye Hills still hosts a regional GIS user group on an as needed/ as demanded basis. Many members of this regional GIS users group are in regular contact with Buckeye Hills staff concerning spatial data and mapping issues.

Buckeye Hills has also been called upon to provide GIS technical assistance and advice in Morgan County (Morgan County Engineer's Office) and in Meigs County (Meigs County Economic Development, Village of Racine, and the leadership group mentioned earlier.) With the assistance of Buckeye Hills, GIS adoption and utilization continues to grow in our region.

Buckeye Hills also recently received a grant from the EDA and the Ohio Governors Office of Appalachia (GOA) to expand and enhance the existing GIS program. These new funds will be used to purchase server based GIS technology that will allow Buckeye Hills to move some of their GIS information and customized maps on to the internet. Buckeye Hills intends to offer this service to local communities as a way to introduce the tool of GIS to local parties without the large investment in hardware, software, and training generally required to implement GIS. These funds will also allow for the purchase of a new GPS unit and other supporting hardware to expand our Asset Management Program. At the time of this report Buckeye Hills was still awaiting final documentation from the GOA.

XI. 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. In order to achieve the widest possible distribution, this information is included in our monthly newsletter.

Below is a summary of data requests for Fiscal Year 2008.

**Data Requests
Ranked by Number of Requests**

Organization	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Government	131	73.18%
Business	20	11.17%
Acad./ Research	10	5.59%
Priv. Citizen	8	4.47%
Media	6	3.35%
Comm. Org/ Non. Prof.	4	2.23%
Totals	179	

Type of Request	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Other GIS Map	101	56.42%
Misc. Community Prof.	24	13.41%
Census Maps	14	7.82%
Population	12	6.70%
Income	11	6.15%
Labor Force	5	2.79%
Totals	179	

The Data Center received 179 requests between July 1, 2008 and April 17, 2008. Services requests came from community organizations, private citizens, businesses, academic/ research bodies, and local units of government. Over seventy 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 101 of the 179 total requests (56.42%).

XII. Business Assistance Programs/ Entrepreneurial Support Programs

Revolving Loan Fund

Buckeye Hills provided loan financing 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. All loan funds and amounts are related to job creation and retention figures for the region.

During fiscal year 2008, the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund closed 4 loans totaling \$410,402. These funds leveraged an additional \$1,529,302 in other public and private funding. These loan projects created or retained a total of 68 private sector jobs.

XIII. Regional Promotion

Website

The Buckeye Hills staff continued to promote the economic development opportunities and activities throughout the region between July 1, 2008, and April 17, 2009. The purpose of our promotional activities is to attract new business and private investment to our eight-county district.

Buckeye Hills staff continued to administer and update the agency website www.buckeyehills.org. This website continues to provide public information on all of our available programming, publications, data, and staff, as well as information detailing available commercial properties and buildings throughout the region. Our website received over 332,000 hits between July 1, 2008 and April 17, 2008; averaging 1,140 hits per day during that time. This is 120,000 more hits than were recorded during the reporting period last year.

Regional Economic Development Study

During fiscal year 2008, Buckeye Hills also began pursuing funding to complete a feasibility study that would help to create a cohesive brand and marketing image for the counties in Southeastern Ohio. These new promotional materials coupled with a concentrated focus on regional economic development supported by local economic development officials and led by Buckeye Hills will yield significant benefits for the region.

Media Relations/ Outlets

During the past year Buckeye Hills continued its proactive and reactive Communications strategies including media, community and government relations efforts.

Buckeye Hills continued the distribution of a monthly Buckeye Hills-HVRDD newsletter, a monthly newsletter for the Area Agency on Aging and special advocacy or funding-related alerts as needed across the district. The electronic monthly newsletters from BH have a distribution of over 500 recipients.

The Communications Department has also provided proactive legislative advocacy, and bolstered grassroots efforts to disseminate information about local issues impacting residents. As a result of media relations efforts, BH-HVRDD was able to acquire nearly \$20,000 in complementary media and advertising space for BH-related items and information during 2008.

In addition, interviews were conducted for radio and local television and public television on a variety of topics as time and representatives were available. Ongoing medial relations and relationship building have netted several

opportunities for interviews related to economic development, regional demographic and aging-related issues – key regional media outlets have begun to contact BH-HVRDD as an “expert source.”

From a government relations perspective, Buckeye Hills has hosted a variety of on-site and in-district meetings with state and federal legislators and funding partners to inform and educate on issues and concerns. The communications team coordinated with state and national associations on a variety of advocacy projects on issues ranging from infrastructure and transportation to senior services and the Appalachian region. Buckeye Hills hosted and facilitated meetings with all state and federal legislators throughout 2008 in the district and in Washington, D.C.

Other Promotional Activities

Buckeye Hills participated in The Eastern Ohio Development Alliance, an independent, non-profit organization created to promote economic growth in the Eastern Ohio region through regional cooperation. Misty Casto, Exec. Director, participated as a Board member and leader with the Legislative Affairs Committee and staff members attended its annual meetings.

Buckeye Hills serves as the SE Ohio (Ohio Dept. of Development Region 11) Team Ohio leads coordinator. In 2008, through utilization of a summer intern, Buckeye Hills proactively coordinated planning meetings with regional Economic Developers and created an electronic regional needs assessment/input survey related to regional marketing. Buckeye Hills also provided input for enhancements to the Region 11 section of the ODOD web site.

Buckeye Hills coordinated a forum to discuss regional efforts with representatives from The Ohio Dept. of Development (ODOD), The Ohio Business Development Coalition (OBDC) and The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA). District economic development leaders were on hand to discuss the regional approach to handling business lead management, brand development and best practices. As a member of "Team OHIO," Buckeye Hills will serve as the region's coordinator for the Team OHIO lead management system. Focused on target marketing, industry trade shows, conferences, and visits with corporate executives/site selection professionals, Team OHIO underscores the message, "Ohio Means Business."

Buckeye Hills also coordinated the joint application for an AEP Ohio Economic Development Grant with Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties. The \$10,000 grant will provide funds to assist with a feasibility study to determine strategies for regional economic development collaboration and defray costs for the development of such a free-standing regional entity.

Small Business Development

The Appalachian Development Corporation and Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District opened the Thomas A. Closser Business Center in Marietta, Ohio, for regional business development in October 2007.

The Closser Center currently has 12 of 16 offices available for lease, ranging from 99-209 square feet and is conveniently located near SR 7 and I-77. The two-story building has two conference rooms, storage space, kitchen area, four restrooms, and convenient parking. Secretarial Support, high speed internet, phone and fax services are provided for a small fee.

Town Hall Meetings

Buckeye Hills hosted a series of Town Hall meetings in each of the eight counties across the district during the summer and fall of 2008. Participants voiced their thoughts on a variety of topics and shared ideas for partnerships that will help Buckeye Hills staff as they work toward solutions. As a result, the true voice of those living in the individual counties and in turn, the entire region was heard, offering needed insight for future planning. The perspectives shared will help Buckeye Hills adjust the program and project offerings in order to best serve those living in the eight-county region. County-by-county reports from these town hall meetings are available on the Buckeye-Hills website.

CHAPTER III

REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Constituency

Population profile

	Census							
	2000	2001*	2002*	2003*	2004*	2005*	2006*	2007*
Ohio	11,353,140	11,392,043	11,414,537	11,437,908	11,461,347	11,470,685	11,463,513	11,466,917
BHHVRDD	255,000	255,215	255,533	256,349	255,865	255,123	254,637	254,511
Athens	62,223	62,711	62,933	63,135	62,185	62,028	63,237	63,275
Hocking	28,241	28,367	28,560	28,691	28,864	28,927	28,708	28,959
Meigs	23,072	23,034	23,167	23,236	23,170	23,179	22,940	22,895
Monroe	15,180	15,145	14,978	14,950	14,927	14,736	14,368	14,258
Morgan	14,897	14,893	14,828	14,844	14,932	14,895	14,649	14,613
Noble	14,058	13,957	13,993	14,072	14,172	14,097	14,144	14,096
Perry	34,078	34,323	34,571	34,869	35,033	35,106	34,837	34,839
Washington	63,251	62,785	62,503	62,552	62,582	62,155	61,754	61,576

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

** Not all years have been adjusted to reflect most current estimated values.

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	% Change
Ohio	11,353,145	11,501,181	11,666,854	11,816,168	12,005,733	12,164,199	12,317,613	8.50%
BHHVRDD	255,000	260,638	263,855	269,048	269,207	270,723	270,106	5.92%
Athens	62,223	63,967	64,535	67,207	66,003	66,576	66,337	6.61%
Hocking	28,241	28,873	29,839	30,298	31,001	31,195	31,496	11.53%
Meigs	23,072	23,503	23,687	23,962	23,989	24,047	23,834	3.30%
Monroe	15,180	14,757	14,800	14,384	14,277	13,762	13,485	-11.17%
Morgan	14,897	15,203	15,198	15,274	15,123	14,962	14,618	-1.87%
Noble	14,058	14,728	15,365	15,843	16,227	16,486	16,690	18.72%
Perry	34,078	35,717	36,923	38,431	39,502	40,935	41,993	23.23%
Washington	63,251	63,890	63,508	63,649	63,085	62,760	61,653	-2.53%

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	5-14	15-19	20-24	15-44	25-64	65-84	15+	65+	85+
BHHVRDD	254,697	14,143	30,044	20,277	25,500	111,418	129,782	30,383	210,510	34,951	4,568
Athens	61,860	3,049	5,779	7,487	12,950	34,808	26,405	5,343	53,032	6,190	847
Hocking	28,973	1,799	3,771	1,805	1,737	11,526	15,927	3,507	23,403	3,934	427
Meigs	23,092	1,382	2,785	1,494	1,367	9,148	12,627	2,957	18,925	3,437	480
Monroe	14,606	785	1,676	982	815	5,301	7,761	2,250	12,145	2,587	337
Morgan	14,821	842	1,860	986	877	5,724	7,751	2,170	12,119	2,505	335
Noble	14,165	647	1,515	895	1,471	6,806	7,732	1,647	12,003	1,905	258
Perry	35,313	2,257	5,203	2,397	2,243	14,631	18,940	3,743	27,853	4,273	530
Washington	61,867	3,382	7,455	4,231	4,040	23,474	32,639	8,766	51,030	10,120	1,354

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+ cohort composes nearly 14 percent of the total population of the district.

	Total Population	Native				Bi- & Multi-			Total
		White	Black	Aboriginal	Asian	Hawaiian	& Oth. Pac. Isl.	Racial	
				American					Minorities**
Ohio	11,478,006	9,747,752	1,377,161	27,546	177,215	3,787	144,545	267,750	1,963,685
BHHVRDD	254,697	244,497	4,253	772	2,158	51	2,966	1,877	11,865
Athens	61,860	57,674	1,445	252	1,542	16	931	788	4,847
Hocking	28,973	28,141	287	85	95	0	365	176	997
Meigs	23,092	22,556	194	65	51	0	226	131	660
Monroe	14,606	14,414	42	28	20	1	101	64	246
Morgan	14,821	13,842	535	55	14	0	375	66	1,040
Noble	14,165	13,039	1,002	37	27	0	60	88	1,210
Perry	35,313	34,781	88	98	57	4	285	194	716
Washington	61,867	60,050	660	152	352	30	623	370	2,149

*** 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 2006 population estimates. 95.99 percent of the population was ‘White’, and 1.66 percent was ‘Black’, increasing slightly since 2005. The other racial categories and multi racial designations make up the small remainder. Of the total population in the region, 4.65 percent were minority, up slightly from 2005.

(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	150,510	64.6	4,836	19.8	106,381	926.8	72,833	6.4	40,314	3.5
BHHVRDD	2,783	56.5	84	16.05	2,409	977.3	1,605	6.3	998	3.8
Athens	585	33.2	17	19	473	764.6	346	5.6	206	3.3
Hocking	335	58.4	18	29.5	259	893.9	224	7.7	128	4.4
Meigs	267	58.6	8	16.1	284	1,229.9	154	6.6	96	4.1
Monroe	151	58.4	2	6.4	164	1,122.8	108	7.3	57	3.9
Morgan	181	62.8	2	5.8	150	1,012.1	81	5.4	63	4.2
Noble	142	60.2	5	19.5	125	882.5	81	5.7	38	2.7
Perry	477	65.5	13	16.6	305	863.7	186	5.3	115	3.3
Washington	645	55	19	15.5	649	1,049.0	425	6.8	295	4.7

* 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 56.5 in 2006, behind the state figure of 64.6. However the region’s teen birth rate (16.05) continues to be lower than the state’s rate (19.8). 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 (65.5 per 1,000, an increase from 2005); Hocking County had the highest teen birth rate (29.5 per 1,000, an increase from 2005). Meigs County reported the highest death rate (1,229.9 per 100,000). Hocking County had the highest marriage rate during 2006 at 7.7 per 1,000.

	00-00*	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	00-07	Net
BHHVRDD	-92	-269	-115	584	-716	-297	-898	-473	-2,276	
Athens	43	401	182	156	-849	559	-179	-113	200	
Hocking	-14	101	101	64	7	-25	-103	180	311	
Meigs	-50	-47	97	28	-40	-17	-172	-69	-270	
Monroe	-16	-127	-136	-11	31	-203	-131	-69	-662	
Morgan	-12	-90	-96	2	39	-29	-78	-49	-313	
Noble	24	-163	18	124	67	-153	112	-69	-40	
Perry	-1	62	21	139	-10	-26	-84	-116	-15	
Washington	-66	-406	-302	82	39	-403	-263	-168	-1,487	

Table 3.06 shows the net migration of each county in the district from 2000 to 2007. 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 (311), while Washington County continued to suffer the biggest loss (-1,487). The net migration loss in Washington County continues to be the largest,

however they have been steadily improving since reaching a high of -403 in 2004 - 2005. 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. The recent economic difficulties that have gripped our country have only led to a tightening of the local job markets, making it unlikely that these figures will continue to improve in the near future.

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	2006
United States	\$29,845	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714
Ohio	\$28,206	\$28,581	\$29,186	\$29,831	\$30,744	\$31,939	\$33,320
BHHVRDD	\$19,142	\$19,811	\$20,424	\$20,694	\$21,106	\$21,689	\$22,670
Athens	\$17,873	\$19,407	\$20,046	\$20,431	\$20,934	\$21,371	\$22,030
Hocking	\$20,233	\$20,848	\$21,446	\$21,950	\$22,911	\$23,707	\$24,690
Meigs	\$19,774	\$20,023	\$19,525	\$19,164	\$19,575	\$20,257	\$21,754
Monroe	\$19,010	\$20,028	\$20,780	\$22,035	\$22,455	\$22,720	\$23,998
Morgan	\$19,429	\$19,630	\$20,033	\$20,025	\$19,403	\$19,461	\$20,094
Noble	\$15,674	\$16,172	\$16,986	\$17,093	\$17,182	\$17,973	\$18,366
Perry	\$18,407	\$18,700	\$19,496	\$19,833	\$20,672	\$21,278	\$22,095
Washington	\$22,733	\$23,678	\$25,082	\$25,020	\$25,713	\$26,743	\$28,330

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 2006. In 2006 the

average per capita income for the Buckeye Hills district was \$22,670; which was \$10,650 below the state average and \$14,044 below the national average. As evidenced by comparing the years shown, the gap between the BHHVRDD personal per capita income average and the state and national averages continues to grow. Over this seven-year span, Noble County had the lowest average annual per capita income in the region at \$17,064.

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 2006:

- Noble County – 88 (out of 88)
- Morgan County – 86
- Meigs County – 85
- Perry County – 83
- Athens County – 84
- Monroe County – 77
- Hocking County – 72
- Washington County – 44

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

	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.)

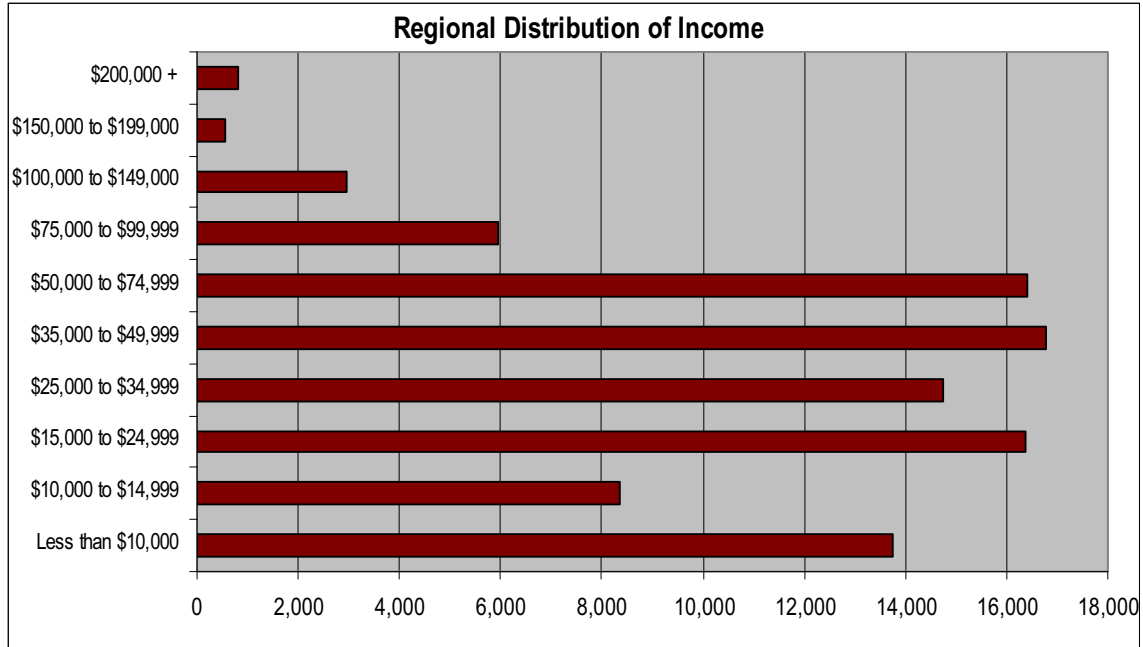
	All	Related Children Under 18	18+	65+
Ohio	10.6	14	10.9	8.1
BHHVRDD	16.0	18.9	14.8	12.6
Athens	27.4	21.2	28.8	12.9
Hocking	13.5	15.8	12.6	14.5
Meigs	19.8	26.3	17.7	14.5
Monroe	13.9	18.3	12.5	11.4
Morgan	18.4	25.1	16.1	12.4
Noble	11.4	13.9	10.3	11.9
Perry	11.8	15.2	10.3	12.7
Washington	11.4	15.7	9.9	10.2

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.

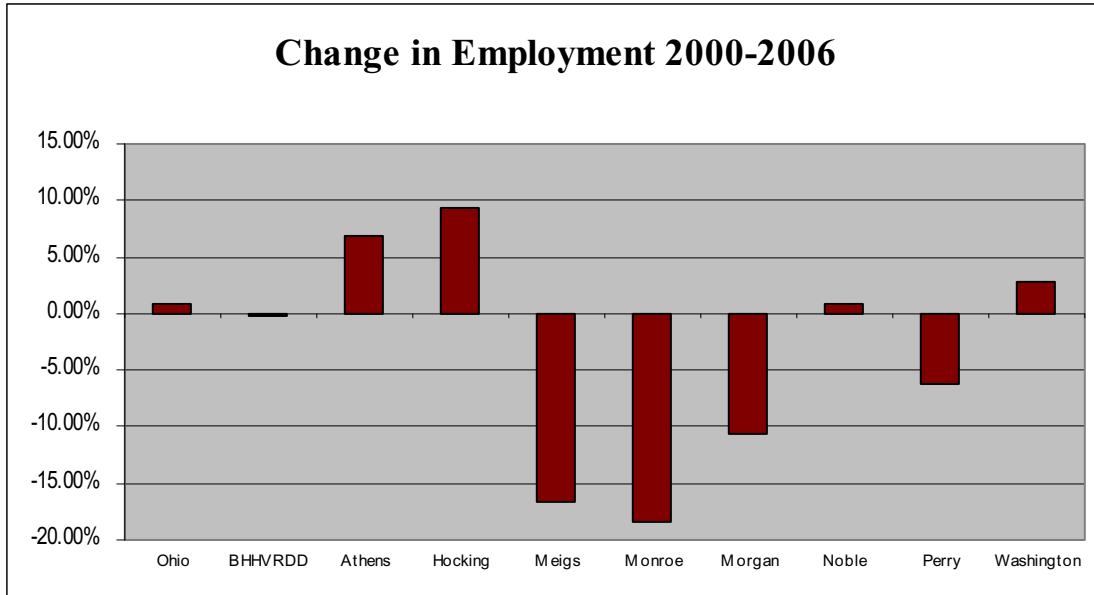
Economic Structure

Jobs

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Changes: 00-06	
								Num.	Pct.
Ohio	6,835,688	6,759,196	6,690,820	6,663,893	6,741,288	6,818,086	6,893,151	57,463	0.84%
BHHVRDD	106,622	105,294	106,811	105,872	105,433	105,399	106,471	-151	-0.14%
Athens	27,910	28,030	28,415	28,682	29,350	29,667	29,804	1,894	6.79%
Hocking	9,754	9,804	9,927	9,861	10,288	10,480	10,664	910	9.33%
Meigs	7,796	7,489	6,881	6,428	6,276	6,267	6,494	-1,302	-16.70%
Monroe	7,392	7,313	7,337	7,445	6,955	5,997	6,028	-1,364	-18.45%
Morgan	5,934	5,860	5,878	5,603	5,262	5,244	5,302	-632	-10.65%
Noble	5,039	5,034	5,052	4,917	4,942	5,070	5,081	42	0.83%
Perry	10,115	9,582	9,800	9,683	9,490	9,510	9,489	-626	-6.19%
Washington	32,682	32,182	33,521	33,253	32,870	33,164	33,609	927	2.84%

Table 3.14 shows the changes in full and part time employment positions between 2000 and 2006. During that time the state has experienced a slight increase in full and part time employment by .84 percent, however employment has been growing since 2003, finally eclipsing a recent high reported in 2000. The Buckeye Hills region has experienced a decrease of .14 percent over the same period. The state experienced highs in employment during 2006, 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 18.45 percent (1,364 positions). The chart below illustrates the overall changes from 2000 to 2006.



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 (2008).

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.

Table 3.16 - 2001 Business Expansions and Attractions						
County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Athens	Starr Machine	Nelsonville	Machine Shop	13		30,000
Athens	TS Trim	Athens	Motor Vehicle Seating	1	\$2,300,000	
Hocking	International Panel Group	Logan	Wood Panels	35	\$6,600,000	35,000
Hocking	Smead Manufacturing Co	Logan	Paper products		\$4,500,000	90,000
Monroe	Central Mine	Sunbury Twp	Coal	500		
Monroe	Monroe County CIC	Woodsfield	Spec. Building		\$1,200,000	23,000
Perry	Petoware	Crooksville	Pottery Products		\$1,300,000	
Washington	BP Amoco	Marietta	Polymer Products		\$14,000,000	
Washington	Chevron	Marietta	Plastic Resins		\$4,300,000	
Washington	Eramet Marietta	Marietta	Ferro Alloy Products		\$5,000,000	
Washington	Hi Vac	Marietta	Industrial Vacuum Cleaners	30	\$1,812,000	
Washington	Interactive Teleservices	Marietta Twp	Call Center	300		
Washington	Riverview Financial Services	Belpre	Call Center	78		

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

Table 3.17 - 2002 Business Expansions and Attractions						
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.

Table 3.18 - 2003 Business Expansions and Attractions

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.

Table 3.19 - 2004 Business Expansions and Attractions

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.

Table 3.20 - 2005 Business Expansions and Attractions

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.

Table 3.21 - 2006 Business Expansions and Attractions						
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.

Table 3.22 - 2007 Business Expansions and Attractions						
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.

Table 3.23 - 2008 Business Expansions and Attractions						
County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Hocking	Chieftan BioFuels	Logan	Biodiesel	20	\$1,300,000	
Hocking	Ventaire LLC	Logan	Metal canopies	50	\$1,200,000	
Morgan	Mahle International GmbH	McConnelsville	Auto engine parts			50,000
Morgan	Miba Bearings US LLC	McConnelsville	Bearings	30	\$10,000,000	120,000
Morgan	Miba Sinter USA	Morgan Twp.	Auto parts	60	\$26,000,000	35,000
Washington	Eramet Marietta Inc.	Marietta	Ferroalloys		\$150,000,000	
Washington	Solsil Inc.	Waterford Twp.	Silicon	350	\$56,000,000	150,000

The two largest reported business expansion projects in the district took place in Washington County during 2008. These two projects totaled \$206 million, while the remainder of the projects reported in the district totaled \$38.5 million. Total investment in the region was reported at \$244,500,000. 510 jobs will be created or retained as a result of these projects.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Ohio	1,090	809	633	599	603	574	518	494
BHHVRDD	10	13	7	5	6	6	8	11
Athens	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	1
Hocking	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1
Meigs	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Monroe	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
Morgan	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Noble	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Perry	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Washington	3	6	3	2	4	2	6	6

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. On a positive note, the number of projects selected in the region has not declined since 2003.

(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	2005	2006	Avg.
Ohio	\$4,867,174	\$5,123,873	\$5,243,370	\$6,547,578	\$6,935,685	\$8,195,324	\$8,874,962	\$6,541,138
BHHVRDD	\$14,549	\$32,590	\$26,381	\$33,217	\$27,627	\$31,877	\$49,697	\$30,848
Athens	\$5,666	\$19,829	\$13,633	\$13,544	\$11,253	\$12,331	\$12,886	\$12,735
Hocking	\$782	\$909	\$1,114	\$1,213	\$895	\$976	\$1,064	\$993
Meigs	\$818	\$1,321	\$1,534	\$4,042	\$4,148	\$2,981	\$14,853	\$4,242
Monroe	\$906	\$959	\$1,389	\$2,482	\$1,984	\$2,932	\$2,298	\$1,850
Morgan	\$530	\$1,167	\$899	\$1,706	\$941	\$2,697	\$1,070	\$1,287
Noble	\$513	\$519	\$583	\$509	\$693	\$631	\$5,747	\$1,314
Perry	\$1,326	\$1,185	\$1,254	\$1,291	\$2,094	\$1,401	\$3,051	\$1,657
Washington	\$4,008	\$6,701	\$5,975	\$8,430	\$5,619	\$7,928	\$8,728	\$6,770

Table 3.24 illustrates total government procurement awards from 2000 to 2006. 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. Morgan and Hocking Counties constituted the lowest amounts in the region, with Hocking County having nearly fourteen times less in Government Procurement dollars than Meigs County in 2006.

Regional Labor Profile

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ohio 2008
Civilian Labor Force	110,300	109,700	110,400	112,800	120,400	119,400	120,000	120,900	120,400	5,971,900
Employment	102,700	103,600	103,300	104,100	111,300	110,400	112,100	112,900	111,600	5,582,100
Unemployment	7,400	6,100	7,100	8,700	9,300	8,900	7,900	7,800	8,800	389,700
Unemployment Rate	8.2	7.1	8.1	9.8	8.6	8.6	7.6	7.3	8.3	6.5

Table 3.26 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 2008. 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 saw 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. 2008 saw a slight contraction of the overall civilian labor force (-500). The most substantial growth of the civilian labor force took place between 2003 and 2004; with an increase of 7,600. Total unemployment rose in 2008 for the first time since 2003.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Business Starts	561	600	493	551	536	487	564	452
Business Terminations	550	512	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	11	88	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	4,843	4,853	4,970	4,982	5,106	5,052	5,001	4,667

Table 3.27 illustrates the general business environment in the Buckeye Hills region from 2000 to 2007. The number of new business starts reached a 10 year low of 452 in 2007. 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 number of total active businesses in the district also reached a recent low during 2007, down 334 from the previous year.

(Continued on Next Page)

Table 3.28 - Regional Employment by Industrial Sector 2000-2007								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	73,093	72,486	73,294	73,027	71,227	70,097	70,355	70,768
Private Sector	55,824	55,175	55,936	55,542	53,617	52,463	52,716	51,601
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	468	476	343	196	278	202	302	237
Mining	914	634	1,007	657	726	770	1,019	1,100
Utilities	146	535	243	251	262	272	588	494
Construction	3,771	3,807	5,101	4,340	3,555	3,596	3,541	3,696
Manufacturing	12,719	12,537	9,795	10,887	9,909	8,589	8,169	8,631
Wholesale trade	1,613	1,689	1,541	1,440	1,322	1,461	1,502	1,589
Retail trade	9,297	9,247	9,268	9,390	9,251	9,126	9,404	9,204
Transportation and warehousing	1,211	1,169	1,053	960	1,101	1,068	1,228	1,354
Information	710	705	636	625	581	547	606	590
Finance and insurance	1,924	1,981	2,105	2,338	2,372	2,245	2,148	2,233
Real estate and rental and leasing	551	574	605	669	747	811	774	635
Professional and technical services	1,519	1,617	1,478	1,573	1,597	1,572	1,543	1,537
Management of companies and enterprises	117	87	86	84	72	77	101	153
Administrative and waste services	1,099	1,094	809	1,395	1,498	1,530	1,503	1,638
Educational services	116	527	541	498	563	543	522	90
Health care and social assistance	8,049	8,494	7,681	7,976	8,228	8,262	8,649	8,639
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	490	484	392	385	364	404	358	317
Accommodation and food services	6,221	6,220	6,114	6,138	6,116	6,426	5,956	6,099
Other services, except public administration	2,063	1,958	1,956	1,980	1,882	1,999	1,839	1,881
State and Local Government	17,270	17,311	17,359	17,487	17,611	17,635	17,639	16,806
State government	863	860	4,854	843	848	859	4,463	814
Local government	8,351	8,384	12,505	8,479	8,448	8,539	12,126	7,859
Federal Government	935	838	861	843	815	811	825	2,814

Table 3.28 shows us the regional employment by industrial (NAICS) sector from 2000 to 2007. The biggest gains were in the ‘federal government’ sector (1,879) and the ‘health care and social assistance’ sector (590). As expected, the largest losses were experienced in the ‘manufacturing’ sector, with 4,088 fewer jobs being reported in 2007 compared to 2000.

(Continued on Next Page)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$504.33	\$523.24	\$526.31	\$534.22	\$541.19	\$541.77	\$539.78	\$569.56
Private Sector	\$490.60	\$506.49	\$501.80	\$507.49	\$514.41	\$516.17	\$509.46	\$474.33
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$332.33	\$338.21	\$291.49	\$236.88	\$371.67	\$297.97	\$303.79	\$312.22
Mining	\$648.03	\$572.90	\$589.99	\$567.35	\$806.30	\$582.87	\$626.35	\$656.40
Utilities	\$930.48	\$1,047.67	\$1,107.17	\$1,122.29	\$1,075.88	\$1,144.85	\$1,207.46	\$784.47
Construction	\$539.98	\$570.86	\$667.34	\$643.37	\$576.49	\$597.71	\$647.12	\$725.69
Manufacturing	\$632.97	\$650.24	\$668.98	\$718.73	\$745.52	\$815.94	\$825.04	\$765.63
Wholesale trade	\$547.25	\$564.15	\$541.88	\$544.50	\$597.07	\$642.71	\$641.10	\$700.77
Retail trade	\$298.00	\$308.71	\$316.03	\$322.75	\$325.69	\$332.32	\$337.71	\$354.24
Transportation and warehousing	\$459.77	\$468.74	\$465.46	\$492.40	\$530.25	\$549.29	\$555.73	\$483.89
Information	\$562.62	\$541.61	\$555.31	\$578.03	\$623.32	\$655.37	\$644.94	\$663.71
Finance and insurance	\$466.58	\$485.61	\$489.95	\$549.58	\$551.10	\$545.32	\$568.59	\$665.02
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$266.19	\$238.48	\$262.50	\$263.32	\$267.74	\$273.19	\$305.87	\$320.52
Professional and technical services	\$460.03	\$503.99	\$499.56	\$543.95	\$515.11	\$523.82	\$555.69	\$600.34
Management of companies and enterprises	\$622.71	\$542.32	\$566.35	\$649.35	\$722.21	\$738.85	\$759.60	\$1,686.13
Administrative and waste services	\$327.64	\$309.69	\$394.77	\$350.96	\$469.57	\$453.06	\$458.81	\$541.45
Educational services	\$334.69	\$393.76	\$413.35	\$424.33	\$452.48	\$447.88	\$456.96	\$306.76
Health care and social assistance	\$378.27	\$389.15	\$435.28	\$212.75	\$444.57	\$456.48	\$465.49	\$496.94
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$257.06	\$247.24	\$261.30	\$257.12	\$256.51	\$223.57	\$229.42	\$226.72
Accommodation and food services	\$166.20	\$163.93	\$168.69	\$166.06	\$174.70	\$174.59	\$174.24	\$186.94
Other services, except public administration	\$234.35	\$255.16	\$292.05	\$265.74	\$278.28	\$319.76	\$285.46	\$299.63
State & Local Government	\$512.03	\$535.59	\$563.80	\$576.92	\$588.76	\$590.22	\$599.26	\$557.51
State Government	\$720.42	\$707.66	\$822.86	\$783.95	\$753.70	\$773.95	\$735.37	\$728.62
Local Government	\$439.32	\$456.67	\$488.62	\$494.61	\$520.60	\$516.15	\$525.27	\$460.24
Federal Government (d)	\$605.49	\$649.82	\$683.22	\$701.77	\$769.51	\$750.89	\$793.66	\$811.04

Table 3.29 shows the average weekly wages for the recorded industries of employment (NAICS). The ‘management of companies and enterprises’ sector saw the largest increase in average weekly wages, up \$1,063 since 2000. This same sector also reported the highest wages for 2007 (\$1,686.13), while the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector paid the least (\$186.94).

Athens County Economics

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ohio 2008
Civilian Labor Force	27,300	28,300	28,500	29,600	29,600	29,900	30,500	30,600	30,500	5,971,900
Employment	26,000	27,200	27,200	28,200	27,800	28,000	28,700	28,800	28,500	5,582,100
Unemployment	1,300	1,100	1,300	1,400	1,800	1,900	1,800	1,800	2,000	389,700
Unemployment Rate	4.7	3.8	4.6	4.8	6.2	6.4	5.9	5.9	6.6	6.5

Table 3.30 examines the civilian labor force in Athens County. The employment levels have leveled off since 2006, with a total increase of 2,500 since 2000. Athens County

has seen a 700 person increase in unemployment over this time as well. Although the unemployment rate did rise to 6.6 percent in 2008, Athens County remains one of the only counties in the region that continues to maintain an unemployment level on par with the corresponding state average. Athens County is home to a major state university, Ohio University, which plays a significant role in the local employment patterns.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	18591	18781	19022	19222	19,516	19,551	19,836	19,778
Private Sector	11646	11820	12021	12162	12,312	12,399	12,771	12,687
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	41	51	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Mining	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Utilities	89	85	81	71	69	67	67	-1
Construction	541	495	498	503	485	472	452	487
Manufacturing	1063	987	947	914	825	780	558	500
Wholesale trade	215	205	203	227	260	352	361	379
Retail trade	2572	2681	2717	2810	2,800	2,720	3,022	3,061
Transportation and warehousing	191	168	163	156	139	130	136	149
Information	323	301	287	307	327	324	350	341
Finance and insurance	494	470	507	501	512	462	470	468
Real estate and rental and leasing	233	238	229	244	274	293	269	275
Professional and technical services	447	468	433	403	371	383	414	420
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	55
Administrative and waste services	264	324	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	283
Educational services	90	91	96	88	71	34	22	24
Health care and social assistance	2347	2519	2607	2848	2,942	2,926	3,153	3,074
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	125	123	102	96	102	114	111	104
Accommodation and food services	2037	2079	2261	2112	2,273	2,423	2,405	2,371
Other services, except public administration	498	469	495	511	552	549	490	477
State and Local Government	6945	6961	7002	7061	7,204	7,151	7,064	7,091
State government	-1	-1	3479	-1	-1	-1	3,575	-1
Local government	-1	-1	3523	-1	-1	-1	3,489	-1
Federal Government	269	257	279	271	257	264	277	253

(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 563 positions since 2000.

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	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$512.98	\$553.97	\$565.27	\$571.75	\$578.94	\$592.27	\$597.50	\$620.40
Private Sector	\$375.65	\$390.43	\$404.15	\$414.48	\$428.17	\$438.87	\$444.15	\$464.15
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$463.67	\$457.20	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Mining	(c)	(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	(c)
Construction	\$442.18	\$455.70	\$455.19	\$450.40	\$451.42	\$482.69	\$501.25	\$518.48
Manufacturing	\$468.25	\$495.02	\$521.54	\$560.35	\$573.87	\$589.96	\$643.56	\$616.58
Wholesale trade	\$483.59	\$504.54	\$504.12	\$485.52	\$526.48	\$512.46	\$539.54	\$528.81
Retail trade	\$335.23	\$352.60	\$358.73	\$371.58	\$373.71	\$384.31	\$381.69	\$413.13
Transportation and warehousing	\$529.72	\$548.51	\$552.83	\$570.21	\$605.00	\$659.92	\$626.25	\$616.83
Information	\$466.75	\$468.96	\$498.50	\$521.71	\$527.96	\$494.02	\$442.88	\$467.00
Finance and insurance	\$534.95	\$557.48	\$563.69	\$588.69	\$602.19	\$597.38	\$614.87	\$632.48
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$321.32	\$361.62	\$350.27	\$385.37	\$413.38	\$389.75	\$366.67	\$383.60
Professional and technical services	\$557.67	\$599.90	\$579.15	\$594.62	\$648.13	\$668.19	\$693.50	\$717.63
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$892.67
Administrative and waste services	\$260.79	\$266.67	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$265.52
Educational services	\$283.22	\$268.26	\$284.83	\$303.54	\$291.54	\$274.73	\$282.98	\$263.98
Health care and social assistance	\$458.30	\$477.42	\$531.79	\$525.52	\$548.50	\$575.54	\$575.46	\$606.54
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$351.04	\$335.57	\$342.56	\$348.04	\$344.44	\$360.42	\$371.06	\$377.15
Accommodation and food services	\$155.53	\$153.04	\$150.27	\$156.21	\$163.54	\$163.67	\$168.17	\$185.60
Other services, except public administration	\$296.73	\$316.43	\$331.31	\$341.15	\$327.85	\$354.63	\$380.77	\$374.53
State & Local Government	\$743.28	\$831.66	\$841.87	\$842.56	\$836.58	\$858.31	\$874.81	\$899.99
State Government	(c)	(c)	\$1,130.98	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Local Government	(c)	(c)	\$556.37	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Federal Government (d)	\$673.54	\$744.72	\$763.21	\$794.40	\$856.06	\$893.13	\$915.79	\$980.31

Table 3.32 depicts the average weekly wages by industrial (NAICS) sector from 2000 through 2007. The ‘federal government sector paid the highest weekly wage (\$980.31) reported in the county in 2007. (The ‘utilities’ sector had been the highest wage previously; however that data was suppressed for 2007.) The lowest wages in the county were found in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$185.60).

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Business Starts	132	157	107	121	119	90	134	97
Business Terminations	139	129	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	-7	28	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	1,064	1,069	1,081	1,090	1,139	1,123	1,104	1,042

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 120 per year. The number of total active businesses has started to decline after reaching a recent high of 1,139 in 2004. Information on business terminations and net change continues to be suppressed for all counties.

Hocking County Economics

Table 3.34 - Hocking County- Civilian Labor Force										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ohio 2008
Civilian Labor Force	11,800	11,800	12,000	12,200	13,800	13,800	14,000	14,200	14,200	5,971,900
Employment	10,800	11,100	11,200	11,200	12,700	12,800	13,100	13,300	13,100	5,582,100
Unemployment	1,000	800	800	1,000	1,100	1,000	900	900	1,100	389,700
Unemployment Rate	8.7	6.4	6.4	8	7.7	7.5	6.2	6.4	7.7	6.5

The unemployment rate in Hocking County has been erratic over this nine-year period, reaching a high of 8.7% in 2000. However in 2008 the unemployment increased for the first time since 2003. 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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	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	6,710	6,700	6,837	6,774	6,803	6,816	7,073	7,001
Private Sector	5,106	5,084	5,229	5,162	5,151	5,087	5,193	5,161
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	27	21	-1	-1	-1	31	35	31
Mining	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	146	189	217
Utilities	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Construction	371	366	325	332	342	342	332	316
Manufacturing	1,662	1,452	1,374	1,308	1,264	1,126	1,100	1,039
Wholesale trade	153	139	145	139	127	119	-1	-1
Retail trade	811	898	1,046	986	990	1,005	977	922
Transportation and warehousing	105	97	-1	-1	-1	-1	104	101
Information	59	72	62	51	50	46	40	43
Finance and insurance	142	163	182	180	187	189	187	187
Real estate and rental and leasing	75	72	71	89	100	123	127	90
Professional and technical services	91	84	91	86	86	83	87	77
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	85	91	157	153	131	129	175	165
Educational services	26	27	26	-1	30	29	29	30
Health care and social assistance	462	541	532	-1	529	537	539	534
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	93	94	92	93	98	99	54	51
Accommodation and food services	611	640	695	726	738	745	893	1,020
Other services, except public administration	228	209	209	224	226	222	230	263
State and Local Government	1,604	1,617	1,608	1,613	1,652	1,730	1,879	1,841
State government	373	374	358	357	358	362	374	371
Local government	1,231	1,243	1,250	1,256	1,294	1,368	1,505	1,470
Federal Government	60	52	52	52	52	53	52	52

Table 3.35 illustrates the employment levels by NAICS employment sector in Hocking County. The manufacturing sector in Hocking County continues to shrink, although with reported losses of 623 positions between 2000 and 2007. ‘Accommodation and food services’ saw the largest increase over this period, 409 workers.

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

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	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$460.61	\$465.12	\$473.94	\$488.08	\$507.85	\$509.02	\$508.46	\$536.17
Private Sector	\$430.60	\$428.80	\$429.71	\$439.71	\$458.13	\$459.94	\$461.77	\$475.31
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$325.04	\$549.57	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$366.90	\$344.63	\$395.38
Mining	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$561.19	\$592.96	\$582.81
Utilities	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Construction	\$478.68	\$489.47	\$491.21	\$481.60	\$509.25	\$520.87	\$526.06	\$578.48
Manufacturing	\$582.52	\$605.93	\$614.96	\$630.02	\$670.40	\$701.10	\$728.88	\$749.58
Wholesale trade	\$561.05	\$585.24	\$609.94	\$679.65	\$641.87	\$722.35	(c)	(c)
Retail trade	\$333.68	\$332.32	\$346.27	\$367.81	\$366.96	\$366.58	\$369.56	\$389.12
Transportation and warehousing	\$548.52	\$515.76	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$546.13	\$579.08
Information	\$418.48	\$495.03	\$449.94	\$572.58	\$662.44	\$639.48	\$580.60	\$623.13
Finance and insurance	\$490.37	\$530.98	\$525.27	\$579.27	\$595.98	\$578.13	\$608.13	\$631.96
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$323.31	\$297.22	\$302.90	\$276.46	\$273.50	\$232.31	\$255.29	\$273.88
Professional and technical services	\$465.42	\$453.52	\$474.71	\$444.77	\$426.48	\$422.54	\$483.98	\$495.54
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(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	\$343.71
Educational services	\$386.15	\$408.78	\$441.50	(c)	\$599.54	\$614.38	\$626.88	\$647.60
Health care and social assistance	\$398.68	\$378.43	\$413.73	(c)	\$478.31	\$494.65	\$493.10	\$533.90
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$247.82	\$251.61	\$265.12	\$270.81	\$266.10	\$258.10	\$207.40	\$224.31
Accommodation and food services	\$177.74	\$176.79	\$178.27	\$182.87	\$200.58	\$200.48	\$198.10	\$205.42
Other services, except public administration	\$262.32	\$273.66	\$302.31	\$280.00	\$280.58	\$286.85	\$289.48	\$296.38
State & Local Government	\$556.17	\$579.00	\$617.70	\$642.67	\$662.73	\$653.06	\$637.76	\$706.50
State Government	\$811.39	\$811.71	\$893.02	\$920.08	\$894.19	\$922.27	\$879.85	\$990.77
Local Government	\$478.83	\$508.98	\$538.85	\$563.85	\$598.46	\$581.92	\$577.33	\$634.77
Federal Government (d)	\$581.30	\$656.33	\$669.71	\$670.92	\$741.33	\$689.33	\$738.69	\$747.41

The above table compares the average weekly wages for industrial sectors in Hocking County from 2000-2007. The highest average weekly wage in Hocking County during 2007 was found in the ‘state government’ sector (\$990.77). The lowest wage was found in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$205.42)

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Business Starts	93	83	60	87	84	74	91	63
Business Terminations	79	78	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	14	5	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	516	504	527	528	562	554	549	511

Hocking County experienced an increase in active businesses from 2000 to 2004; however these numbers have leveled off and decreased to a point lower than the level reported in 2000. The number of new business starts over this period are 30 fewer than reported in 2000. Despite these decreases, Hocking County is averaging nearly 79 business starts per year over this eight-year period.

Meigs County Economics

Table 3.38 - Meigs County- Civilian Labor Force										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ohio 2008
Civilian Labor Force	8,400	8,000	7,400	7,100	9,000	9,000	9,100	9,300	9,100	5,971,900
Employment	7,500	7,300	6,600	6,000	8,100	8,100	8,300	8,400	8,200	5,582,100
Unemployment	900	700	800	1,100	1,000	900	800	800	900	389,700
Unemployment Rate	10.5	8.7	11.3	15.7	10.8	9.8	8.5	8.9	10.2	6.5

Table 3.38 shows civilian labor force information for Meigs County. The overall civilian labor force has been very steady since 2003. Employment in the county has also been relatively unchanged since 2004. 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 2008 the unemployment had once again risen to double-digit levels. Unfortunately, Meigs County continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the state on a monthly basis.

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Table 3.39 - Meigs County- Employment by Industrial Sector								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	4,924	4,766	4,208	3,717	3,550	3,542	3,667	3,655
Private Sector	3,712	3,643	3,128	2,643	2,514	2,489	2,632	2,616
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	158	207	168	-1	98	-1	88	102
Mining	-1	-1	353	-1	142	-1	107	142
Utilities	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	19	22	-1
Construction	314	408	465	319	263	235	275	264
Manufacturing	-1	130	-1	-1	-1	125	111	109
Wholesale trade	49	56	61	80	-1	43	74	74
Retail trade	766	672	649	623	609	595	632	611
Transportation and warehousing	54	40	-1	-1	34	41	26	-1
Information	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Finance and insurance	150	157	162	159	158	149	161	162
Real estate and rental and leasing	14	18	20	17	16	13	13	15
Professional and technical services	59	59	60	62	60	59	-1	-1
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	78	46	-1	-1	-1	-1	123	-1
Educational services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Health care and social assistance	542	509	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	16	16	15	18	16	16	-1	-1
Accommodation and food services	333	349	352	309	332	336	-1	-1
Other services, except public administration	75	78	80	77	73	66	-1	-1
State and Local Government	1,212	1,123	1,080	1,075	1,035	1,052	1,035	1,039
State government	45	44	43	43	43	41	42	41
Local government	1,167	1,079	1,037	1,032	992	1,011	993	998
Federal Government	90	82	83	83	77	78	73	75

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	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$513.90	\$548.13	\$435.19	\$419.37	\$424.29	\$428.33	\$430.85	\$450.58
Private Sector	\$552.80	\$587.25	\$424.71	\$395.06	\$391.85	\$400.40	\$401.31	\$420.69
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$237.51	\$197.34	\$224.98	(c)	\$223.08	(c)	\$278.94	\$270.06
Mining	(c)	(c)	\$673.81	(c)	\$748.13	(c)	\$685.42	\$750.54
Utilities	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$1,185.33	\$1,185.13	(c)
Construction	\$509.55	\$594.91	\$650.58	\$575.65	\$544.40	\$582.98	\$664.87	\$654.04
Manufacturing	(c)	\$573.48	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$533.81	\$550.52	\$540.79
Wholesale trade	\$503.00	\$462.50	\$482.79	\$406.29	(c)	\$652.13	\$709.85	\$743.27
Retail trade	\$302.28	\$327.40	\$330.08	\$345.50	\$313.73	\$322.56	\$322.38	\$341.67
Transportation and warehousing	\$407.19	\$504.35	(c)	(c)	\$516.87	\$540.48	\$552.65	(c)
Information	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Finance and insurance	\$399.76	\$402.67	\$427.77	\$441.67	\$442.00	\$465.52	\$469.21	\$476.87
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$207.10	\$198.67	\$167.12	\$184.54	\$170.15	\$179.71	\$169.96	\$236.75
Professional and technical services	\$352.67	\$377.94	\$375.87	\$396.92	\$410.94	\$427.94	(c)	(c)
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Administrative and waste services	\$190.15	\$187.32	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$256.65	(c)
Educational services	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Health care and social assistance	\$322.67	\$338.80	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$184.38	\$162.60	\$202.38	\$161.98	\$135.92	\$121.94	(c)	(c)
Accommodation and food services	\$194.15	\$193.39	\$195.00	\$178.12	\$174.67	\$175.92	(c)	(c)
Other services, except public administration	\$291.11	\$306.00	\$293.46	\$332.02	\$307.62	\$285.69	(c)	(c)
State & Local Government	\$394.76	\$421.21	\$465.38	\$478.88	\$503.56	\$494.69	\$506.13	\$525.86
State Government	\$617.29	\$614.87	\$678.58	\$699.15	\$674.79	\$713.38	\$678.81	\$827.86
Local Government	\$386.18	\$413.31	\$456.54	\$470.12	\$495.85	\$485.63	\$498.46	\$513.45
Federal Government (d)	\$603.91	\$641.02	\$679.67	\$699.85	\$760.63	\$747.46	\$811.67	\$843.59

Table 3.40 illustrates the average weekly wages by industrial sector for Meigs County. The highest reported wages in 2007 were in the ‘federal government’ sector (\$843.59), while the lowest reported wages were in the ‘real estate and rental and leasing,’ sector (\$236.75). Some of the sectors which had previously been reported with the highest wages in the county had their data suppressed for 2007.

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Business Starts	33	45	37	36	33	28	37	23
Business Terminations	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	358	363	378	363	354	340	344	321

Meigs County experienced a recent low in business starts in 2007 with 23. A high of 45 new business starts was recorded during 2001. The number of total active businesses has been declining since 2002. Meigs County has averaged 34 business starts per year over this eight-year span.

Monroe County Economics

Table 3.42 - Monroe County-Civilian Labor Force										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ohio 2008
Civilian Labor Force	5,800	5,300	5,300	5,400	6,100	5,500	5,100	5,600	5,700	5,971,900
Employment	5,200	4,900	4,800	4,900	5,500	4,700	4,500	5,100	5,200	5,582,100
Unemployment	500	300	400	500	600	700	600	500	500	389,700
Unemployment Rate	9.4	6.6	8.1	8.8	10.1	13.1	11.3	8.2	8.6	6.5

Table 3.42 shows the civilian labor force totals for Monroe County from 2000 to 2008. 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. Unfortunately in the four years since, the civilian labor force has fallen to a lower level than that reported in 2000. 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 3.43 - Monroe County- Employment by Industrial Sector								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	4,790	4,449	4,419	4,526	4,134	3,147	2,967	3,638
Private Sector	3,916	3,569	3,530	3,637	3,242	2,262	2,151	2,854
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	25	25	-1	16	20	18	16	13
Mining	70	38	31	35	38	44	54	61
Utilities	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	24	26
Construction	188	170	200	190	171	192	166	163
Manufacturing	2,301	2,048	-1	1,757	1,343	325	299	1,052
Wholesale trade	63	64	-1	-1	-1	-1	51	48
Retail trade	380	374	354	374	370	357	358	352
Transportation and warehousing	79	90	87	111	117	122	115	94
Information	27	33	33	32	-1	-1	-1	-1
Finance and insurance	114	116	223	442	438	428	417	412
Real estate and rental and leasing	8	15	6	8	9	9	8	8
Professional and technical services	47	51	47	97	42	39	43	38
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	27	30	43	43	148	170	160	169
Educational services	-1	-1	-1	-1	34	35	37	36
Health care and social assistance	172	179	-1	-1	167	160	151	139
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	12	15	-1	16	15	16	22	7
Accommodation and food services	227	162	-1	135	135	153	107	107
Other services, except public administration	146	128	109	115	-1	93	97	106
State and Local Government	875	880	889	889	893	885	815	784
State government	37	36	36	34	38	37	34	39
Local government	838	844	853	855	855	848	781	745
Federal Government	69	61	62	61	54	51	54	53

The employment situation in Monroe County has been relatively unchanged for many years. Of note here are the staggering losses recorded between 2000 and 2007 in the ‘manufacturing’ sector, with 1,249 positions being lost. The ‘finance and insurance’ sector has seen the largest increase over this time, with 298 new positions being reported overall.

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

(Continued on Next Page)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$539.76	\$548.44	\$554.46	\$606.58	\$601.77	\$584.81	\$575.40	\$604.94
Private Sector	\$566.44	\$580.51	\$580.37	\$643.35	\$635.62	\$630.65	\$608.10	\$630.04
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$294.02	\$267.68	(c)	\$253.40	\$238.85	\$214.48	\$238.94	\$216.23
Mining	\$320.73	\$304.23	\$325.42	\$301.46	\$329.58	\$376.85	\$379.62	\$425.06
Utilities	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$1,190.75	\$1,113.17
Construction	\$530.54	\$487.17	\$429.37	\$410.94	\$419.00	\$475.00	\$633.50	\$604.27
Manufacturing	\$737.65	\$764.59	(c)	\$868.25	\$886.37	\$1,660.12	\$1,484.15	\$831.50
Wholesale trade	\$750.38	\$789.81	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$712.87	\$994.96
Retail trade	\$244.99	\$243.73	\$250.65	\$250.83	\$256.46	\$271.50	\$281.98	\$303.19
Transportation and warehousing	\$457.56	\$469.45	\$460.50	\$454.87	\$554.10	\$579.87	\$538.31	\$571.83
Information	\$661.97	\$649.61	\$639.58	\$605.94	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Finance and insurance	\$378.96	\$380.72	\$452.90	\$697.31	\$680.73	\$614.35	\$526.69	\$560.29
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$206.19	\$147.50	\$193.77	\$150.94	\$155.08	\$184.46	\$180.23	\$160.83
Professional and technical services	\$457.80	\$514.15	\$407.67	\$747.42	\$376.02	\$325.81	\$416.63	\$463.29
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(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	\$1,052.13
Educational services	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$356.38	\$330.88	\$301.40	\$315.46
Health care and social assistance	\$268.87	\$316.75	(c)	(c)	\$338.42	\$375.19	\$373.33	\$390.63
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$279.45	\$244.99	(c)	\$256.75	\$262.35	\$250.21	\$194.50	\$149.75
Accommodation and food services	\$153.40	\$142.69	(c)	\$138.65	\$147.67	\$154.12	\$151.17	\$162.50
Other services, except public administration	\$169.14	\$177.97	\$187.91	\$175.19	(c)	\$274.50	\$293.56	\$294.56
State & Local Government	\$419.76	\$418.35	\$451.51	\$455.88	\$478.56	\$467.69	\$489.54	\$514.03
State Government	\$638.15	\$641.13	\$684.21	\$740.15	\$663.85	\$679.56	\$662.63	\$778.11
Local Government	\$410.12	\$408.85	\$441.69	\$444.38	\$470.58	\$458.79	\$482.10	\$500.21
Federal Government (d)	\$593.69	\$634.01	\$661.15	\$688.15	\$824.52	\$728.67	\$786.85	\$808.78

Based on table 3.43 above, the highest wage in the county was still found in the ‘utilities sector (\$1,113.17), while the lowest wage was found in the ‘arts, entertainment, and recreation’ sector (\$149.75).

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Business Starts	28	33	34	30	20	31	29	22
Business Terminations	26	28	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	2	5	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	368	369	380	379	376	371	364	328

In 2004 Monroe County experienced a recent low in the number of business starts taking place in the county with 20. This number rebounded to 31 in 2005, but has since declined to 22 in 2007. The number of total active businesses in the county has been on

the decline since 2002. Thirty-six fewer businesses were reported in 2007 compared to 2006.

Morgan County Economics

Table 3.46 - Morgan County- Civilian Labor Force										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ohio 2008
Civilian Labor Force	4,500	4,500	4,300	4,300	6,300	6,200	5,800	5,800	5,700	5,971,900
Employment	3,900	3,800	3,700	3,600	5,700	5,600	5,300	5,200	5,100	5,582,100
Unemployment	600	700	600	700	700	600	500	500	600	389,700
Unemployment Rate	12.4	14.7	14.3	16.4	10.4	9.9	9.1	9.3	10.5	6.5

Table 3.46 provides us with data on Morgan County’s civilian labor force from 2000 to 2008. 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 and retreated back to 5,700, 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 5.9 percent since 2003, despite the fact that it reached double-digits again in 2008. In 2003 the unemployment rate in Morgan County was nearly triple the state average at an astonishing 16.4 percent.

(Continued on Next Page)

Table 3.47 - Morgan County- Employment by Industrial Sector								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	3,424	3,334	3,258	3,096	2,927	2,726	2,417	2,363
Private Sector	2,721	2,631	2,529	2,384	2,223	2,033	1,703	-1
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	15	12	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Mining	243	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Utilities	-1	304	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Construction	208	261	274	293	183	141	131	129
Manufacturing	738	600	569	454	483	360	336	341
Wholesale trade	-1	66	66	69	72	67	75	73
Retail trade	383	378	373	379	361	351	337	291
Transportation and warehousing	8	9	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Information	31	41	37	34	32	-1	36	33
Finance and insurance	98	106	104	103	110	108	-1	99
Real estate and rental and leasing	-1	5	6	6	6	6	-1	4
Professional and technical services	23	20	23	22	58	56	54	50
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	10	10	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Educational services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Health care and social assistance	268	323	357	373	298	318	339	345
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	39	56	13	14	-1	6	7	7
Accommodation and food services	216	215	225	194	-1	151	161	163
Other services, except public administration	75	53	40	48	50	82	53	55
State and Local Government	703	703	729	711	705	693	716	-1
State government	57	57	55	58	58	60	61	-1
Local government	646	646	674	653	647	633	655	-1
Federal Government	56	43	41	39	40	39	38	36

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 2007 (data suppression makes further analysis difficult). The reported level of manufacturing positions has been more than cut in half since 2000 (-397).

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

(Continued on Next Page)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$554.82	\$587.56	\$563.92	\$593.48	\$585.75	\$587.35	\$493.13	\$527.54
Private Sector	\$579.04	\$614.61	\$585.44	\$617.83	\$604.35	\$605.31	\$477.06	(c)
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$207.82	\$249.52	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Mining	\$1,041.68	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Utilities	(c)	\$1,309.23	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Construction	\$650.87	\$758.35	\$804.73	\$907.65	\$651.65	\$646.23	\$710.71	\$696.69
Manufacturing	\$656.35	\$702.28	\$732.08	\$792.02	\$755.13	\$749.23	\$771.69	\$844.13
Wholesale trade	(c)	\$746.06	\$745.71	\$739.37	\$785.92	\$841.44	\$806.06	\$847.54
Retail trade	\$249.78	\$267.87	\$274.54	\$282.31	\$297.13	\$296.87	\$291.15	\$302.27
Transportation and warehousing	\$398.66	\$357.67	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Information	\$592.12	\$457.72	\$490.38	\$510.77	\$480.87	(c)	\$455.75	\$489.13
Finance and insurance	\$400.20	\$405.83	\$392.63	\$405.08	\$420.60	\$438.69	(c)	\$469.10
Real estate and rental and leasing	(c)	\$110.78	\$153.38	\$162.33	\$141.67	\$146.00	(c)	\$146.75
Professional and technical services	\$371.17	\$419.04	\$451.60	\$431.08	\$248.92	\$262.81	\$288.88	\$302.06
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Administrative and waste services	\$305.30	\$316.01	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Educational services	(c)	(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	\$452.23
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$167.74	\$185.46	\$213.23	\$198.04	(c)	\$153.65	\$201.48	\$166.48
Accommodation and food services	\$131.36	\$133.53	\$132.44	\$144.87	(c)	\$156.79	\$160.33	\$165.88
Other services, except public administration	\$186.14	\$234.74	\$282.27	\$272.12	\$255.12	\$587.83	\$253.80	\$294.07
State & Local Government	\$461.08	\$486.34	\$488.94	\$512.90	\$526.48	\$534.96	\$530.26	(c)
State Government	\$681.09	\$666.84	\$719.63	\$713.81	\$704.21	\$690.85	\$666.06	(c)
Local Government	\$441.66	\$470.42	\$470.12	\$494.48	\$510.50	\$520.29	\$518.52	(c)
Federal Government (d)	\$575.94	\$609.84	\$681.35	\$693.83	\$766.87	\$752.31	\$816.42	\$784.72

During 2007, the highest reported wage in Morgan County was reported in the ‘wholesale trade’ sector (\$847.54), while the lowest weekly wage was reported in the ‘real estate, rental, and leasing’ sector (\$146.75).

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Business Starts	35	27	23	46	27	19	42	22
Business Terminations	29	28	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	6	-1	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	261	253	260	277	273	253	255	230

The number of new business starts in Morgan County saw a significant increase between 2005 and 2006 (23), however that number was cut nearly in half in 2007 (22). The

average number of new business starts per year during this period was 30. The total number of active businesses has decreased since recent highs in 2003 and 2004.

Noble County Economics

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ohio 2008
Civilian Labor Force	5,600	5,300	5,500	5,800	5,800	5,900	5,900	5,800	5,800	5,971,900
Employment	5,200	5,000	5,200	5,300	5,300	5,400	5,500	5,400	5,300	5,582,100
Unemployment	400	300	400	500	500	500	400	400	500	389,700
Unemployment Rate	7.5	5.8	6.9	8.9	8.5	8.1	7.2	7.4	8.5	6.5

Table 3.50 shows us civilian labor force information for Noble County between 2000 and 2008. Noble County has had very steady labor force, employment, and unemployment levels from 2000 to 2008. The unemployment rate has increased by one percent since 2000. Since Noble County is one of the smallest counties in the state (smallest in the BH region) according to population, even slight changes in these levels can translate to large fluctuations in unemployment percent.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	3,384	3,391	3,356	3,243	3,218	3,297	3,251	3,194
Private Sector	2,273	2,285	2,252	2,139	2,107	2,212	2,201	2,153
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	6	12	31	30	-1	-1	-1	-1
Mining	92	89	91	101	-1	-1	-1	-1
Utilities	22	21	21	19	18	12	12	11
Construction	70	75	87	84	99	110	112	111
Manufacturing	-1	676	654	589	571	531	505	486
Wholesale trade	86	80	89	82	87	91	86	94
Retail trade	350	347	379	348	332	341	375	348
Transportation and warehousing	81	86	89	54	49	61	57	73
Information	18	19	18	18	14	13	15	16
Finance and insurance	85	71	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Real estate and rental and leasing	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Professional and technical services	19	20	26	25	23	25	-1	-1
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	14	25	16	17	17	18	-1	-1
Educational services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Health care and social assistance	434	412	405	457	437	514	559	530
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Accommodation and food services	286	262	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Other services, except public administration	94	83	63	59	53	53	66	68
State and Local Government	1,111	1,106	1,104	1,104	1,111	1,086	1,050	1,042
State government	-1	-1	536	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Local government	-1	-1	568	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Federal Government	34	29	29	27	29	27	28	30

Data suppression of employment levels in Noble County makes trend analysis difficult between 2000 and 2007. Based on what is available, with the exception of manufacturing (-190 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)

Table 3.52 - Noble County- Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$476.34	\$483.46	\$524.92	\$525.10	\$536.02	\$518.94	\$542.52	\$567.63
Private Sector	\$434.31	\$439.12	\$477.96	\$461.83	\$491.96	\$466.48	\$491.12	\$523.79
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$392.98	\$357.70	\$326.96	\$306.21	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Mining	\$689.18	\$764.13	\$728.48	\$698.67	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Utilities	\$674.26	\$730.18	\$730.63	\$776.60	\$667.92	\$622.85	\$679.56	\$674.79
Construction	\$401.62	\$389.35	\$512.94	\$446.37	\$484.19	\$402.38	\$432.75	\$514.44
Manufacturing	(c)	\$649.51	\$729.98	\$724.08	\$794.38	\$749.58	\$792.87	\$826.48
Wholesale trade	\$442.44	\$476.00	\$472.48	\$435.60	\$426.73	\$455.79	\$472.92	\$466.33
Retail trade	\$283.08	\$290.94	\$279.52	\$284.40	\$300.31	\$316.17	\$335.54	\$349.00
Transportation and warehousing	\$441.50	\$451.71	\$406.10	\$471.75	\$543.12	\$522.29	\$590.17	\$564.90
Information	\$538.62	\$500.78	\$484.40	\$492.44	\$512.02	\$508.17	\$842.83	\$798.54
Finance and insurance	\$548.00	\$575.31	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Real estate and rental and leasing	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Professional and technical services	\$391.84	\$503.08	\$456.25	\$447.94	\$532.81	\$665.90	(c)	(c)
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Administrative and waste services	\$517.39	\$452.14	\$481.15	\$475.69	\$534.04	\$485.00	(c)	(c)
Educational services	(c)	(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	\$376.67
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Accommodation and food services	\$183.85	\$172.08	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Other services, except public administration	\$175.52	\$237.94	\$423.42	\$186.65	\$202.56	\$193.73	\$174.83	\$184.04
State & Local Government	\$562.33	\$575.07	\$620.59	\$647.62	\$619.48	\$625.52	\$650.32	\$657.67
State Government	(c)	(c)	\$788.44	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Local Government	(c)	(c)	\$462.19	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Federal Government (d)	\$550.53	\$574.89	\$621.90	\$633.12	\$672.42	\$666.04	\$697.56	\$675.00

Table 3.52 shows the average weekly earnings by industrial sector (NAICS) for Noble County between 2000 and 2007. In 2007 the highest reported wages in Noble County were recorded in the ‘manufacturing’ sector (\$826.48), while the lowest wages were recorded in the ‘other services, except public administration’ sector (\$184.04).

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Business Starts	25	24	11	15	15	27	20	17
Business Terminations	17	24	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	8	0	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	226	228	216	206	207	212	212	206

The business environment in Noble County has continued to fluctuate between 2000 and 2008. Noble County experienced a high number of business starts in 2005, but unfortunately that number dropped off to 17 in 2007. Noble County has averaged approximately 19 business starts per year during the time period specified, and has experienced a net loss of 20 businesses.

Perry County Economics

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ohio 2008
Civilian Labor Force	14,200	14,400	14,700	15,000	16,700	16,600	16,600	16,400	16,400	5,971,900
Employment	13,100	13,400	13,500	13,500	15,200	15,200	15,400	15,200	15,000	5,582,100
Unemployment	1,100	1,000	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,200	1,200	1,400	389,700
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.1	8.1	9.8	8.8	8.1	7.4	7.4	8.5	6.5

Table 3.54 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, and was reported at a similar level in 2008. The unemployment rate reached a high at 9.8 percent in 2003, but had been falling steadily until 2008.

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	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	6,755	6,645	6,736	6,626	6,462	6,417	6,327	6,044
Private Sector	5,059	4,898	4,989	4,826	4,646	4,581	4,433	4,165
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	52	20	21	21	24	22	20	16
Mining	249	197	233	229	232	228	259	258
Utilities	35	33	28	30	29	29	28	28
Construction	438	452	557	636	659	623	588	485
Manufacturing	1,593	1,520	1,493	1,347	1,156	1,134	1,040	896
Wholesale trade	182	185	172	99	78	74	80	86
Retail trade	751	727	665	671	664	679	647	631
Transportation and warehousing	66	69	57	54	58	61	62	68
Information	41	55	62	57	39	33	36	36
Finance and insurance	198	214	238	259	261	214	195	190
Real estate and rental and leasing	26	28	29	33	43	40	37	31
Professional and technical services	108	106	107	103	105	105	106	103
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	57	48	44	43	-1	-1	-1	-1
Educational services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Health care and social assistance	621	618	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	53	44	34	31	30	38	41	44
Accommodation and food services	406	397	394	361	382	389	373	378
Other services, except public administration	138	136	153	153	141	156	155	161
State and Local Government	1,696	1,747	1,747	1,799	1,816	1,836	1,895	1,879
State government	39	41	41	44	48	46	43	47
Local government	1,657	1,706	1,706	1,755	1,768	1,790	1,852	1,832
Federal Government	88	75	77	77	78	75	77	75

With the exception of the ‘manufacturing’ sector, which has lost 697 positions since 2000, Perry County has maintained a relatively 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	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$469.00	\$476.26	\$508.10	\$526.13	\$532.40	\$536.60	\$556.54	\$593.35
Private Sector	\$481.70	\$490.09	\$524.15	\$547.73	\$546.10	\$553.35	\$575.15	\$619.94
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$422.42	\$342.22	\$330.31	\$346.85	\$339.58	\$319.98	\$363.81	\$393.19
Mining	\$691.28	\$675.92	\$711.19	\$688.40	\$736.75	\$767.63	\$782.88	\$790.21
Utilities	\$1,026.89	\$1,020.60	\$1,151.35	\$1,298.13	\$1,239.44	\$1,313.52	\$1,518.02	\$1,452.35
Construction	\$773.98	\$824.92	\$933.29	\$1,002.27	\$901.21	\$925.75	\$1,012.21	\$1,342.35
Manufacturing	\$588.31	\$607.63	\$611.19	\$620.23	\$637.73	\$641.12	\$686.35	\$750.54
Wholesale trade	\$546.99	\$400.50	\$381.96	\$482.42	\$539.87	\$633.29	\$585.31	\$667.94
Retail trade	\$295.49	\$307.06	\$317.33	\$316.00	\$318.42	\$322.17	\$336.69	\$340.10
Transportation and warehousing	\$361.93	\$384.66	\$385.35	\$417.94	\$384.96	\$351.21	\$364.81	\$350.88
Information	\$732.12	\$682.88	\$724.27	\$718.13	\$845.06	\$913.54	\$809.98	\$810.88
Finance and insurance	\$441.10	\$460.65	\$461.37	\$472.75	\$470.29	\$466.69	\$491.67	\$493.29
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$180.43	\$221.11	\$249.60	\$215.65	\$222.69	\$250.08	\$268.04	\$179.38
Professional and technical services	\$514.64	\$561.63	\$637.33	\$655.77	\$697.10	\$703.25	\$676.40	\$751.94
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Administrative and waste services	\$468.08	\$381.46	\$591.17	\$530.56	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Educational services	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Health care and social assistance	\$423.52	\$437.18	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$357.92	\$310.63	\$302.88	\$306.02	\$261.85	\$178.06	\$161.69	\$182.40
Accommodation and food services	\$145.68	\$151.59	\$164.79	\$171.19	\$171.27	\$177.00	\$161.65	\$175.46
Other services, except public administration	\$215.12	\$226.76	\$246.67	\$271.88	\$304.02	\$295.37	\$309.73	\$324.98
State & Local Government	\$431.13	\$437.49	\$462.21	\$468.54	\$497.35	\$494.79	\$512.64	\$534.45
State Government	\$757.91	\$715.61	\$816.08	\$749.81	\$728.33	\$763.15	\$712.90	\$840.02
Local Government	\$423.44	\$430.80	\$453.71	\$461.37	\$491.23	\$487.88	\$508.15	\$526.61
Federal Government (d)	\$561.95	\$624.98	\$621.44	\$647.15	\$683.85	\$667.21	\$690.54	\$736.67

Table 3.56 shows the average weekly wages for industrial sectors in Perry County. The highest wage in Perry County was recorded in the ‘utilities’ sector (\$1,452.35). The lowest wage was recorded in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$175.46).

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Business Starts	116	94	107	105	112	90	98	90
Business Terminations	92	88	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	24	6	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	617	620	620	643	692	686	676	608

Table 3.57 illustrates the business environment in Perry County from 2000 to 2007. Perry County experienced a recent high in total active businesses in the county in 2004 with 692. Unfortunately in 2008 that number retreated to a level lower (608) than was

reported in 2000 (617). The total decrease since 2000 has been nine businesses. The number of business starts in the county has decreased to a recent low, falling back to the same level as 2005. A high was reached in 2000 with 116 businesses opening their doors. The average number of new business starts is 101 per year.

Washington County Economics

Table 3.58 - Washington County- Civilian Labor Force										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Ohio 2008
Civilian Labor Force	32,700	32,100	32,700	33,400	33,100	32,500	33,000	33,200	33,000	5,971,900
Employment	31,000	30,900	31,100	31,400	31,000	30,600	31,300	31,500	31,200	5,582,100
Unemployment	1,600	1,200	1,600	2,000	2,100	1,900	1,700	1,700	1,800	389,700
Unemployment Rate	5	3.8	4.8	6	6.3	5.9	5.3	5.1	5.5	6.5

Washington County, along with Athens County, is the largest and strongest economic county in the region. Washington County has experienced fairly stable levels of employment and number of individuals in the civilian labor force between 2000 and 2008. The unemployment levels reached a recent high 2003 and 2004, but have decreased annually since. The unemployment rate in Washington County is one of few that remains competitive with the corresponding state rate.

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Table 3.59 - Washington County- Employment by Industrial Sector								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	24,515	24,420	25,458	25,823	24,617	24,601	24,817	25,095
Private Sector	21,391	21,245	22,258	22,589	21,422	21,400	21,632	21,965
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	144	128	123	129	136	131	143	75
Mining	260	310	299	292	314	352	410	422
Utilities	-1	92	113	131	146	145	435	429
Construction	1,641	1,580	2,695	1,983	1,353	1,481	1,485	1,741
Manufacturing	5,362	5,124	4,758	4,518	4,267	4,208	4,220	4,208
Wholesale trade	865	894	805	744	698	715	775	835
Retail trade	3,284	3,170	3,085	3,199	3,125	3,078	3,056	2,988
Transportation and warehousing	627	610	657	585	704	653	728	869
Information	211	184	137	126	119	131	129	121
Finance and insurance	643	684	689	694	706	695	718	715
Real estate and rental and leasing	195	198	244	272	299	327	320	212
Professional and technical services	725	809	691	775	852	822	839	849
Management of companies and enterprises	117	87	86	84	72	77	101	98
Administrative and waste services	564	520	549	1,139	1,202	1,213	1,045	1,021
Educational services	-1	409	419	410	428	445	434	-1
Health care and social assistance	3,203	3,393	3,780	4,298	3,855	3,807	3,908	4,017
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	152	136	136	117	103	115	123	104
Accommodation and food services	2,105	2,116	2,187	2,301	2,256	2,229	2,017	2,060
Other services, except public administration	809	802	807	793	787	778	748	751
State and Local Government	3,124	3,174	3,200	3,235	3,195	3,202	3,185	3,130
State government	312	308	306	307	303	313	334	316
Local government	2,812	2,866	2,894	2,928	2,892	2,889	2,851	2,814
Federal Government	269	239	238	233	228	224	226	217

Table 3.59 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 (-1,154), strong gains have been made in the sectors of ‘administrative and waste services (457), and ‘health care and social assistance’ (814).

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

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	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$507.26	\$523.00	\$584.69	\$543.23	\$562.48	\$576.81	\$613.87	\$655.83
Private Sector	\$504.26	\$521.14	\$587.90	\$539.90	\$559.06	\$574.38	\$616.98	\$660.73
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$315.21	\$284.42	\$283.69	\$277.96	\$313.50	\$290.52	\$292.65	\$286.25
Mining	\$497.27	\$547.32	\$511.04	\$580.88	\$604.44	\$625.79	\$690.85	\$733.40
Utilities	(c)	\$918.07	\$1,020.25	\$1,139.08	\$1,227.31	\$1,367.15	\$1,455.08	\$1,466.52
Construction	\$532.38	\$566.98	\$1,061.38	\$872.10	\$650.77	\$745.79	\$695.60	\$896.79
Manufacturing	\$764.74	\$803.50	\$804.13	\$836.13	\$900.79	\$902.56	\$942.27	\$965.42
Wholesale trade	\$543.30	\$548.54	\$596.15	\$582.65	\$661.56	\$681.52	\$661.12	\$656.52
Retail trade	\$339.49	\$347.73	\$371.12	\$363.54	\$378.83	\$378.42	\$382.71	\$395.42
Transportation and warehousing	\$533.09	\$517.84	\$522.54	\$547.23	\$577.44	\$641.98	\$671.77	\$703.73
Information	\$528.28	\$536.32	\$600.10	\$624.62	\$711.58	\$721.65	\$737.60	\$793.58
Finance and insurance	\$539.27	\$571.24	\$606.04	\$662.27	\$645.88	\$656.46	\$700.96	\$726.13
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$358.80	\$332.43	\$420.46	\$467.92	\$497.73	\$530.02	\$595.00	\$541.90
Professional and technical services	\$569.01	\$602.69	\$613.90	\$633.10	\$780.44	\$714.13	\$774.75	\$871.60
Management of companies and enterprises	\$622.71	\$542.32	\$566.35	\$649.35	\$722.21	\$738.85	\$759.60	\$793.46
Administrative and waste services	\$337.58	\$350.77	\$417.94	\$242.67	\$265.54	\$301.69	\$419.54	\$504.44
Educational services	(c)	\$504.24	\$513.71	\$545.12	\$562.44	\$571.52	\$616.56	(c)
Health care and social assistance	\$495.89	\$511.32	\$513.54	\$471.71	\$558.25	\$576.90	\$594.13	\$621.67
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$211.06	\$239.85	\$241.63	\$258.19	\$268.40	\$242.62	\$240.38	\$260.25
Accommodation and food services	\$187.90	\$188.36	\$191.35	\$190.50	\$190.46	\$194.15	\$206.02	\$226.75
Other services, except public administration	\$278.73	\$267.74	\$269.05	\$266.92	\$270.19	\$279.48	\$296.07	\$328.85
State & Local Government	\$527.76	\$535.63	\$562.23	\$566.27	\$585.33	\$592.73	\$592.63	\$621.56
State Government	\$816.68	\$795.82	\$871.92	\$880.67	\$856.85	\$874.50	\$811.98	\$934.94
Local Government	\$495.70	\$507.67	\$529.48	\$533.44	\$556.98	\$562.40	\$567.04	\$586.37
Federal Government (d)	\$703.02	\$712.76	\$767.29	\$786.75	\$850.42	\$862.94	\$891.75	\$911.82

Table 3.60 illustrates the weekly wages reported for the various employment sectors in Washington County. The highest average weekly wages were reported in the ‘utilities’ sector (\$1,466.52), while the lowest wages were recorded in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$226.75). Of the NAICS sectors reporting, the largest increase between 2000 and 2007 was recorded in the ‘utilities’ sector (\$548.45).

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

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Business Starts	97	140	110	111	126	128	113	118
Business Terminations	108	110	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	-11	30	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	1,433	1,447	1,485	1,483	1,503	1,513	1,497	1,421

Table 3.61 shows us the components of business change in Washington County from 2000 to 2007. 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). Since 2005 the numbers have fallen to levels similar to those reported during 2000. The average number of business starts per year over this period was approximately 118.

Economic Resources

Government Assistance

	Gov't. Payments to Individuals	Retirement and Disability
BHHVRDD	\$1,450,027,000	\$541,999,000
Athens	\$306,961,000	\$88,331,000
Hocking	\$168,046,000	\$64,768,000
Meigs	\$149,400,000	\$54,627,000
Monroe	\$94,175,000	\$40,999,000
Morgan	\$88,484,000	\$33,487,000
Noble	\$62,849,000	\$27,025,000
Perry	\$201,279,000	\$73,844,000
Washington	\$378,833,000	\$158,918,000

Table 3.62 shows us the amount of direct federal payments made to individuals for fiscal year 2006. 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 2006.

	Grants Awarded
BHHVRDD	\$464,571,000
Athens	\$128,381,000
Hocking	\$35,392,000
Meigs	\$62,062,000
Monroe	\$25,830,000
Morgan	\$28,168,000
Noble	\$31,684,000
Perry	\$42,671,000
Washington	\$110,383,000

Table 3.63 illustrates the amounts of federal grants awarded to the counties in the region during fiscal year 2007. As we described in the previous discussion, Athens and

Washington Counties received proportionately higher amounts of federal grant monies during fiscal year 2007.

	Direct Loans	Guaranteed Loans
BHHVRDD	\$148,822,296	\$50,961,734
Athens	\$140,628,451	\$8,104,730
Hocking	\$196,480	\$9,344,694
Meigs	\$249,634	\$4,823,549
Monroe	\$5,000	\$2,094,893
Morgan	\$146,600	\$2,101,992
Noble	\$98,700	\$1,598,463
Perry	\$1,892,329	\$10,182,054
Washington	\$5,605,102	\$12,711,359

Table 3.64 illustrates the amounts of direct and guaranteed loans secured by the eight counties within the district. In this category, Perry and Hocking Counties led the way, bringing in nearly \$20 million in guaranteed loans, while Athens and Washington Counties brought in over \$145 million in direct 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 3.65 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 spring of 2009, 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. Most of the information and discussion below, and in the remainder of this chapter, was taken from these two meetings. Some of the opinions and views expressed in this chapter are gathered through Buckeye Hills' day-to-day work with local officials, community leaders, and economic development professionals.

State of the Economy

Strengths and weaknesses of the region

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

The items listed above are the generally accepted strengths and weaknesses that have been identified and discussed repeatedly over the course of several CEDS documents. Now that our local, county, state, and national economies have encountered a period of difficulty unlike any we have seen in our lifetimes, some new and more pressing issues were presented by the committee as weaknesses within the region. These items are discussed below.

Other noted strengths

Communication- Members noted that our region continues to maintain open and generally honest lines of communication between levels of government, local leaders, elected officials, citizens, organizations, and the like. During a time of difficulty as we are experiencing now, these open lines of communication become increasingly valuable as we work together to derive maximum benefits from the limited resources we have.

Members also noted that the spirit of collaboration, cooperation, and partnership within the region seems to be growing. As financial difficulties continue to mount for localities within the district where resources, especially financial, are in short supply, cooperation is helping local communities and organizations achieve the goals they have set out for themselves.

Education- The Buckeye Hills region has several institutions of higher education within its boundaries, and these organizations are working diligently to provide new and expanded technical and skills based training opportunities for workers in the region. These opportunities are badly needed in our area and organizations such as Hocking College and Washington State Community College are able to fill some of these educational gaps.

Other noted weaknesses

Overall Funding Issues- Our eight county region has historically suffered from funding difficulties, as have most areas within the Appalachian region. With the economic challenges facing our small communities, match monies for existing grant programs have become exceedingly rare, despite the high grant rates made available to our communities through traditional funding mechanisms and the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As residents begin to move away from the region to seek better opportunities, and as some employers are forced to close their doors, valuable tax revenues which once sustained our local areas are quickly shrinking or disappearing altogether.

On a related note, members also noted that our region lacks large companies and organizations that could be used as potential donors to bolster entrepreneurial activities, small business development, and to provide valuable investment capital for projects where traditional state or federal funding may not be applicable or adequate. What few private sources we do have for those types of resources are generally tapped out, leaving public funding as the only possible option for many projects.

Infrastructure- The group wished to emphasize that the lack of basic infrastructure (i.e. water, sewer, broadband, etc) continues to hamper ongoing economic development activities within the region. It is common for public funding programs to require project areas that are out of the recorded 100 year floodplain, and that have generally flat or favorable topography. Unfortunately for our region of Ohio, areas that meet those criteria, and that remain in an undeveloped state are increasingly rare. Of those that are available and that meet the necessary program requirements, many lack basic on-site infrastructure, or the ability to extend existing utilities to the new project site.

Members also emphasized a growing need for broadband deployment in rural areas. Although efforts and activities in researching possibilities, planning potential deployment methods, and establishing community contacts has ramped up considerably in the past two years, few new services have actually been established. Members of the committee feel that the need for broadband has drawn equal with other items of basic infrastructure in the hierarchy of items needed to attract and sustain new economic development opportunities in our local areas.

Education- Our committee members once again discussed the reality that our region has great post secondary educational facilities and opportunities for those wishing to continue their education. The local issue is quickly becoming: ‘how do we encourage individuals to continue the educational process, while at the same time continuing to provide for their families?’ Members expressed a need for some creative way to subsidize educational programs of all types, especially those in the technical, skilled trades, and adult retraining areas. It is no secret that all workers need to supplement their existing skills in order to remain competitive in the workforce at all levels. The traditional class structure obviously does not lend itself well to an adult who is changing fields of profession, or is seeking expanded skills in a selected field. These adults need non-traditional (scheduling, locations, etc) educational opportunities in order to obtain the necessary training or retraining.

Members of our committee representing the higher educational organizations within the region stated that they are having a difficult time locating funding opportunities that are not tied to large scale research and development programs. Larger universities often have programs that are geared toward providing subject based research, the only university in our region large enough to support such endeavors would be Ohio University located in Athens Ohio. The feeling among the committee was that the local demand is for skills based and technical training opportunities that will allow local candidates to fill the job openings we currently have within the region. This sentiment leads to another topic of discussion among the committee members, and that is that there is a need for a

framework in public schools to encourage students to further consider and evaluate technical or skill based training as an alternative to the traditional four year degree program. For the past few years, members of the CEDS committee who represent the economic development professionals in the region have felt that our educational system seems to be overly geared toward pushing every single student toward a four year degree program, despite of the student's true aptitude or capability to succeed in, or even complete, the program. Our area continues to be heavily based in manufacturing and natural resource based industries, and those industries are widely staffed by members of the 'baby boomer' generation. This generation is rapidly moving toward retirement age, and in record numbers. Local officials do not feel that we are producing nearly enough potential candidates to fill the openings we anticipate in areas such as electrical engineering, plumbing, mechanical engineering, mathematics, maintenance, and other applied skill and trade fields. This reality has led local officials to examine why we are not producing these applicants, and the answer seems to lie somewhere between a lack of training opportunities and the inability to effectively communicate the availability of existing training opportunities. In short, one member succinctly stated that the rules and regulations within our educational system do not seem to fit the needs we have right now.

Workforce Issues- Over the past few years, this committee has discussed issues related to the performance, quality, and composition of the local workforce. Speaking in very general terms, members of the committee felt that local employers that pay a fair wage generally have an aged or aging workforce. The middle age (baby boomer) cohort that is currently dominating the local labor force has a stronger work ethic, less absenteeism, and seems generally more motivated than their younger counterparts. For those employers that pay a lower wage, they generally attract a younger workforce, which subjects them to some of the previously mentioned items like questionable work ethic and absenteeism. Members discussed a current practice that aims at helping combat some of the negative traits displayed in the younger workforce, and helps prepare them for life after higher education; this is the simple modeling of the educational schedule to closely resemble the schedule of a typical work day. Members felt that this practice, while simple, helps students better prepare for what they can expect upon their exit from academia and their entrance in to the work force.

Regulatory Issues- Regulatory issues have become a common topic of debate amongst CEDS committee members over the years, and this past year was no different. Some members continue to feel that some State of Ohio, as well as local community regulations, seems to be prohibitive of new business creation, while other localities (i.e. West Virginia) don't seem to have such strict regulation. Despite this view, other members feel that there have been some real improvements in the regulatory area, such as the elimination of the inventory tax in Ohio. Small victories like this have led some officials to believe that the region is not losing as many economic development opportunities 'over the border' as we once did.

The Workers Compensation program in Ohio was formally considered by this group to be a competitive advantage compared to neighboring states, mainly West Virginia. This advantage has been significantly diminished in recent times as other states have taken

aggressive steps to change and improve their respective Workers Compensation programs. Some members even stated that they have experienced some organizations and entities moving to other states to take advantage of those newly revamped programs, as they now offered a better benefit than that of Ohio.

Continuing on this topic, members of the committee felt that some public funding programs and their related project requirements and budgetary limitations made some programs ‘more hassle’ than what they felt the result was worth. Members of the committee specifically stated that there seems to be a true misunderstanding of project magnitude between local thresholds and state/federal expectations. What local parties would consider to be a ‘large project’, for example a project that may create 25 jobs in a small rural community, is in reality a very small project when compared to other activities taking place throughout the state. While this project may be considered a priority project at the local level, this project may not even ‘hit the radar’ of state or federal programs based on program specifications. This disconnect seems to be widening the gap in prosperity between Appalachian Ohio, and the rest of the state.

Overall state of the local economy

While our region has experienced continuous and widespread economic difficulties in the past, the rise of major economic crises in the past year only served to accelerate the difficulties facing our region. Not unlike other areas, as we discussed during last year’s discussions, our region was already suffering from the quickly rising costs of fuel and raw materials. Members of this year’s committee said repeatedly that they themselves, and the constituents they serve, have been asking the same question over and over; ‘when will the economic situation bottom out, and how long will these circumstances last?’ Members of the committee had some very unique views on these questions, stating that our region did not truly benefit from the past 10 years of rapid economic growth the way many other areas within the state and the nation did; and therefore the economic downturn, while distressing and difficult, has not as of yet brought with it the catastrophic side effects evident in other places (i.e. mass layoffs, major displacement, widespread home foreclosures, etc.) It was stated that the access to capital (lending capital) has always been moderate in our local areas, so local banking institutions were not unwisely making high risk investments. This general caution in the past has led to some insulation from the extreme volatilities in the credit markets at this time.

At this time, the general consensus is that most organizations (governments, businesses, non profits, etc.) are focused on basic survival during these difficult economic times. Members of the committee felt it was hard to determine exactly how we were fairing in comparison to other areas simply because the business climate right now is unlike anything that we have encountered in recent memory.

On a final note, many members of the group noted the irony in the fact that other localities in the state are just now starting to experience factors of economic decline and struggle, such as consistently high levels of unemployment, low levels of employment, the migration of people and businesses to other areas, and the difficulty in securing

capital resources and funding. The people in our local areas have been living and working in these conditions for years, accepting them as the norm for this region.

Growth Sectors of the Economy

Health Care - Members of the CEDS committee immediately cited the health care sector as a major growth sector of the regional economy. As stated earlier, with the baby boomer generation moving closer to retirement age, the health care needs associated with this generation has begun to dominate the overall health care picture for our region, state, and nation. The amount of resources required to sustain these needs is staggering, and the task of providing the necessary services is daunting. In step with this dramatic up-tick in health care needs and requirements, the businesses and industries tasked with providing these services, and all the necessary related goods are becoming the largest employers in many areas. One committee member stated that for proof of this taking place, one only needed to ‘open the want-ads in any local paper.’

Energy - Advanced energy technologies continue to be another growth area within the Buckeye Hills region. Hocking College continues to grow their advanced energy program, as construction on their EDA funded facility nears completion. Other funding programs/sources do not seem to be embracing the reality that advanced energy is a viable place for employment on a significant level. Members of the committee noted that the energy crunch is here to stay, and we need to adjust our employment patterns accordingly in order to keep constituents in the region working in the field.

There are those on the CEDS committee that were not so quick to acknowledge the notion that advanced energies can be a major contributor to the local economy. Some members felt that there are lots of clever advertising and marketing campaigns in place for companies who may or may not be ‘green.’ Items associated with being ‘green’ are the buzz right now and businesses are trying to capitalize on that whether they conform to the notions and standards associated with being ‘green’ or not. A comment was raised that there seems to be a real lack so far of companies that can actually produce green products, or produce their green products in a green manner while actually making a profit and staying in business. Some feel that recent activities have created a ‘glut’ of solar companies in the region and that other sectors such as ethanol have turned out to be major ‘busts’ for other parts of Ohio. So while some members felt that we are working toward a real synergy in the energies field, others felt that it may not be sustainable enough to continue for the long term, and that we should continue to ‘cover all the bases’ should any of these investments fail.

Transportation - Transportation continues to be a major growth area in the local economy. With fuel prices easing over the past few months, the situation is not quite as bleak, but local leaders are weary and aware that fuel prices could once again spike up at a moment’s notice. With this threat looming, there has been a resurgence of interest in developing/redeveloping the cargo shipping capabilities of the Ohio River. The Southeastern Ohio Port Authority has recently received funding to complete a ‘container on barge’ study that would examine the possibility of establishing at least two barge

capable commercial ports on the Ohio River in Washington County. Projects like this study acknowledge the strength that the economy of scale provided by river based cargo shipping is growing in local areas.

On a related note, there has also been a renewed interest in establishing wide spread high speed passenger rail services in Ohio. Interest in train travel has not only been expressed by Gov. Strickland, but by President Obama as well. This interest has also been expressed locally. During a town hall meeting held in Athens County last fall, officials from the City of Athens as well as Athens County expressed interest in establishing Athens as a stop or a connection on any future passenger rail systems that may be implemented. Members of the committee were unsure how realistic this goal of passenger rail truly is. Many expressed their concern simply because our region has very little rail still existing and operating, and the cost of retrofitting existing rail or laying new rail would be exponentially more expensive than it was when the first generation was initially constructed over 100 years ago. All members agreed that any new iteration of passenger rail service would focus on connecting Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati, and would have to be successful before any expansion in to rural areas would be considered. It seems highly unlikely that areas in the Buckeye Hills region would be connected via this network in its first iteration. Despite this, many members felt that passenger rail in theory could be a good thing for our region, but the logistical details of how it would work here based on our rugged topography remain a major obstacle.

To close this discussion of growth areas in the local economy, the committee wished to discuss one particular sector of the economy that was not growing, but seems to be in fact shrinking. Numerous members of the committee noted that anything related to the auto industry has lost its luster in terms of economic development priority as the recent economic crisis has brought the American automakers to the brink of extinction. In the recent past, having a parts distributor, parts manufacturer, or an actual automotive manufacturer locate a business in your area was considered a major boost to the local economy, and a significant ‘win’ for local communities. Now that several U.S. based automakers have gone bankrupt, many of these secondary suppliers and manufacturers have abruptly gone out of business along with them, leaving many areas in desperate need of things once provided by these operations such as tax revenue and jobs.

Driving Force of the 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

During our discussions, committee members voiced strong opinions about some of the trends currently affecting Southeastern Ohio. Some members felt that in the current atmosphere of stimulus and recovery, it seems that some funding agencies appear more interested in creating a good headline rather than funding a good project. Sewer projects were discussed as a prime example. Sewer projects generally tend to be large projects with significant benefits and positive outcomes for those that are being served; however, many do not consider a sewer project to be a ‘headline worthy’ project. For this reason many local officials feel that good projects may be passed over in the current atmosphere of heightened media sensitivity .

Along these same lines, members felt that funding agencies were ‘raising the bar’ for project initiatives that are eligible for funding (i.e. only ‘green’ projects, only ‘high tech’ projects) and/or raising the required levels of investment, job creation, job retention. The combination of these factors is making it increasingly difficult to successfully get projects funded on a consistent basis. Members felt that while the needs of other areas may have moved on to these more advanced topics, our region is still in need of basic infrastructure items such as water, sewer, and broadband access. During this discussion members stated that it is highly unlikely this area would be able to support such projects until those basic needs are adequately established. Other members stated that some funding sources have program requirements that are simply unattainable in the current economy and condition of Southeast Ohio at this time. As we discussed earlier, the example was given of a project that may potentially create 30 jobs is a priority project locally, while this same project in comparison with other areas may not even ‘hit the radar’ of organizations in Columbus or Washington DC.

On a more positive note, and as discussed earlier: Our area has been largely unaffected by the foreclosure crisis that so deeply hurt other areas of the state and of the nation. While this may be hard for some to believe, according to the comments of our members it appears to be largely true. This has been partly due to the state of access to capital, and the mindset/ status of local lenders. As economic growth continued from early in the

decade until now, the access to capital remained largely unchanged. This left our local lenders relatively unexposed when the housing market took a major dive. The local lenders were not as liberal with loans and mortgages as many of the other (and larger) areas were, thereby lessening the overall risk encountered by these banks. The stability of these organizations has been a true advantage for the region.

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 continue to 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. Past losses due to globalization have now been coupled with substantial losses in the American automotive industry, to produce a particularly devastating impact on not only Southeast Ohio, but Ohio in general.

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.

It should be noted that the Ohio Department of Development, one of, if not the most, important partner for economic development in Southeast Ohio, is facing the possibility of drastic budget cuts in the face of a \$3.2 billion shortfall in the state budget for the next fiscal year. If this does happen, economic development efforts in the Southeastern region of Ohio, as well as the State as a whole, will be impacted in a very major and negative way.

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

Presenters of Important but Unfamiliar Economic Development Issues

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

Resources for Economic Development

Groups and organizations available to the region

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

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

Support and funding for development activities

Funding for economic development activities in the region continues to come from or through: the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Buckeye

Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, the Ohio State University Extension Offices, the Ohio Department of Development, the State Capital Improvement Program, Local Transportation Improvement Program, Community Development Block Grants, the Clean Ohio Fund, various revolving loan funds, the Trickle Up grant program, and others.

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

CHAPTER V

VISION

Regional Vision

Consistent with previous CEDS documents, 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. Brownfield mitigation) 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 2009.

2009 CEDS Projects

The BH-HVRDD staff maintains a continuing dialogue with local communities to address local priorities and potential projects. During the spring of 2009, 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. This project listing is updated throughout the year as projects are completed or as new projects arise. The CEDS document will be updated to reflect the most current project listing. See Table 6.1 for a current listing identified 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 – 2009 Annual Report

Table 6.1 Ranked Project List 2009								
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	20	20	20	10	10	80
2	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
3	Marietta Regional Sewer Project	Washington	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Health Sciences Facility (WSCC)	Washington	20	20	20	10	0	70
	MAHLE Plant Purchase	Noble	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Ingenuity Center	Washington	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Hocking College - Advanced Sustainable Agriculture Learning Center	Hocking	20	20	20	10	0	70
4	ACEnet - Nelsonville Facility Upgrades	Athens	15	15	15	10	10	65
	Ohio Univ. - Regional Entrepreneurship Support	Ath./Mei./Mon.	15	15	15	10	10	65
	Barlow Vincent Sewer Sys. I&I Mitigation	Washington	15	20	20	10	0	65
	Laurel Ridge/SR60/Dix. Ridge Wat. Ln. Ext.	Washington	15	20	20	10	0	65
	Matamoras Water System Upgrade	Washington	15	20	20	10	0	65
	Warren Water & Sew. Wat. Supply Enhancement	Washington	15	20	20	10	0	65
5	Ohio Univ. - Econ. Adj. Assistance	Regional	5	15	15	10	10	55
6	Ohio Riverfront Park (Belpre)	Washington	5	20	15	10	0	50
x	American Municipal Power Generating Station	Meigs	20	20	20	10	10	80

*last update 10/23/09

*Distress level determined using FY 2009 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.

During the past year, Buckeye Hills did not submit any EDA applications for potential projects from the project listing. Buckeye Hills did receive one EDA grant in April 2009 to complete a GIS enhancement project. Aside from this project there are two projects on the above list that are currently completing applications for funding consideration.

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

Planning Programs and Activities

2010 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) - Full Revision - The Staff will continue to annually update the CEDS document and improve the CEDS process. 2010 will mark the fifth year in a five year review cycle for the current CEDS document. The 2010 CEDS will be a full re-write of the document, this will include evaluating and establishing regional goals and objectives for this document as it moves on to a new three year review cycle consistent with the updated three year planning grant cycles implemented by EDA in 2006-2007. The CEDS continues to be a valuable tool in determining the economic health and growth of this region. The staff will document the program experience during the past year, and use this information as the CEDS is revised for 2010. A CEDS advisory committee will be formed from local economic development experts, local business leaders, elected officials, and other local participants. With the assistance of the CEDS advisory committee, area trends, strengths, weaknesses, partners for development, and a host of other topics will be evaluated in order to formulate new goals and strategies, as well as project and policy recommendations. The staff will incorporate all information gathered from the advisory committee into the 2010 CEDS Full Revision.

Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission -Buckeye Hills will continue to participate on the advisory board of the Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission. The purpose of this commission is to keep public officials and local agencies informed about transportation projects proposed and underway in Wood, Washington, and Wirt counties in southern Ohio and western West Virginia.

Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board – Buckeye Hills staff will continue to participate on the Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board. This board meets regularly at the Voinovich Center on the campus of Ohio University in Athens Ohio. The purpose of this body is to help continue shaping the application and direction of the www.firstohio.com (formerly appalachianohio.com) web portal as it moves in to the future.

Development District of Appalachia (DDAA) - Buckeye Hills has recently become an active member of the Development District of Association of Appalachia, which is an organization made up of all 74 local development districts encompassing the 420 Appalachian counties in the United States. In prior years Buckeye Hills staff only participated as a member organization, but now has staff on the DDAA board, and the DDAA training committee. Buckeye Hills has been heavily involved in planning the DDAA GIS Training Conference for the past 3 years. The conference was most recently held in Huntsville Alabama on March 31 and April 1, 2009. Activities are already underway to initiate the planning of the 2010 DDAA GIS Training Conference.

Rural Broadband Initiatives/ Connect Ohio - Buckeye Hills will continue to actively participate in planning and visioning processes, such as Connect Ohio, intended to bring broadband internet coverage to rural Ohio. The main objective of these efforts is to

spread the availability and adoption of high speed internet service across Ohio, while also expanding the overall use and adoption of computers by Ohio's populous. Connect Ohio is an endeavor that has undertaken an initiative to more accurately map existing broadband services and facilities currently available throughout the state. This group has been holding community based meetings in all 88 counties with the focus on helping counties identify potential projects that will improve the aforementioned areas, as well as identify areas of local expertise, local partners, and potential funding sources for these identified projects. Buckeye Hills will also continue to work with the other LDD's in Appalachian Ohio in the formation and support of a broadband project currently being formulated by the Southern Ohio Health Care Network. It is hoped that one of these major broadband projects will be ready to prepare funding applications during the 2009 calendar year.

Ohio Department of Development Program Advisory Committees – Members of the Buckeye Hills staff will serve as members of the CDBG Water & Sewer, CDBG Economic Development Program, and CDBG Downtown Program Advisory Committees for the Ohio Department of Development Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP). The OHCP holds annual advisory board meetings as a part of the planning process for the annual consolidated plan. As a member of the Advisory Board, Buckeye Hills staff will have the opportunity to discuss the programs from a historical perspective and inform participants of changes to state and federal policy that will impact program administration. Feedback will be provided to OHCP regarding programs and any recommend changes to improve program administration and/or program impacts.

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.

Buckeye Hills GIS Enhancement Project - During April 2009, Buckeye Hills received funding for a GIS enhancement project that had been planned for approximately three years. This enhancement project will allow for the purchase of ArcGIS Server, one additional Trimble GPS unit, one server, and one desktop computer. Buckeye Hills intends to use these items to make some of the GIS maps and data that have been collected over the years accessible via the internet. Buckeye Hills will also expand its asset management program, allowing communities to receive training on the proper use of the GPS data collection unit. Once this training is collected communities will be able to collect their own GIS data using a Buckeye Hills GPS unit. Once this data is collected

these communities will be able to add this data to an online GIS viewer provided and hosted by Buckeye Hills. This program will be an asset to our rural communities, affording them immediate access to GIS technologies, without the initial investment needed to purchase, hardware, software, and staff training.

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 data collection, data support, and map creation 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.

GIS Administration Activities – Buckeye Hills will continue to administer GIS activities for parties throughout the region. Buckeye Hills will continue to coordinate and administer GIS activities for the City of Marietta Ohio, as well as Washington County Ohio. Buckeye Hills also coordinates the Washington County GIS Users Group, as well as a larger eight county GIS Users Group that encompasses the entire Buckeye Hills region. The Washington County GIS Users Group meets monthly, while the larger group is less formal and meets infrequently. Meetings are held on an ‘as needed’ or ‘at will’ basis. Buckeye Hills maintains regular contact with parties that participate in this larger users group via email and web based interaction. The purpose of both GIS user groups 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 either 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 monthly ‘data center updates’ as part of our monthly agency newsletter. Distribution via this method allows the statistical information to effectively reach a much larger audience than before.

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.

Town Hall Meetings - Buckeye Hills will host at least one annual Town Hall meeting in each of the eight counties across the district during 2009 and 2010. The focus of these meetings will be on giving local residents a venue to directly voice their opinions to Buckeye Hills staff about any issues facing their communities. Information from these meetings will be collected and passed on to the pertinent agencies or individuals that will be able to best respond to these issues. All notes and information gathered will be posted on the Buckeye Hills website for public dissemination.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - Buckeye Hills Development staff will continue to assist the counties in our region in identifying and preparing projects that may be eligible for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As future developments and funding rounds are formulated for this program, Buckeye Hills staff will use all means available to ensue that local communities are aware of all potential funding opportunities and timelines associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and any future variations thereof.

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.

West Malta Water Project - Buckeye Hills will assist the Morgan County Commissioners in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to extend water service to approximately 200 households in Malta and Penn Townships. This project will 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 was started in September 2007.

The West Malta Rural Water Project suffered a long delay due to contractor issues. All 22 miles of water line have been installed, with total project costs at this time of \$2,784,326. No low-to-moderate-income water hookups are complete at this time. New contractors have been identified and construction activities should resume during the spring of 2009. All construction is scheduled to be completed by December 2009.

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

The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funds for the Noble County Water Project. Environmental Review work has been completed. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2009.

Washington County Formula -2007 - Buckeye Hills will serve as administrators of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2007. Buckeye Hills will assist the grantee by ensuring that the four projects within Washington County, and the single project for the City of Belpre comply with all funding requirements; comply with all applicable state and federal regulations; and participate in the bidding process for contracts. Buckeye Hills staff will hold or attending pre-construction conferences, complete status reports, as well as consult with the independent auditor at time of final audit. Buckeye Hills staff will also to reply to any funding agency inquiries as to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners as a part of this grant.

Staff is currently administering the 2007 Washington County Formula Grant, which includes the following activities: improvements and purchase of equipment for one senior center; home/building repair for the county; and fire protection for two townships. The total project cost for the above projects will be approximately \$315,566. At the time of this report, only one project remains to be completed.

Washington County Formula -2008 - Buckeye Hills will serve as administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2008. Buckeye Hills will assist the grantee by; ensuring that the selected projects in Washington County comply with all funding requirements; comply with all applicable state and federal regulations; and participate in the bidding process for contracts. Buckeye Hills staff will hold or attending pre-construction conferences, complete status reports, as well as consult with the independent auditor at time of final audit. Buckeye Hills staff will also to reply to any funding agency inquiries as to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners as a part of this grant.

Staff is currently administering the 2008 Washington County Formula Grant, which includes the following activities: home repair activities throughout the county; purchase of equipment for one fire department; building construction/renovation on one fire department and one senior center; one historical building renovation for ADA purposes; and fair housing activities for the county. Total project costs are estimated at \$500,785. All projects are currently out for bid.

State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program/ Job Ready Sites - The Community Development staff will continue to serve as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The 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: coordinating 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.

Job Ready Sites –While fulfilling the role of liaison for District 18 of the Ohio Public Works Commission, Buckeye Hills will also administer the Ohio Job Ready Sites Program. The Ohio Job Ready sites (JRS) program is intended to stimulate the compilation and development of large parcels of land, and in some cases large buildings, that ultimately will attract significant investments and create high wage job opportunities for Ohioans.

The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which include, but are not limited to: coordinating meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding or consideration for funding under the JRS program.

Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program - The Community Development Staff will continue to serve as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The

District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties in Southeastern Ohio. The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is a part of the \$400 million Clean Ohio Fund and provides monies to counties, townships, cities, villages, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, joint recreational districts, park districts, and other non-profit organizations with a primary purpose in conservation and preservation. The purpose of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is the purchase of open spaces and the costs of making them accessible to the public and for the protection of stream corridors, providing wildlife habitat and reducing erosion. The staff will 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: coordinating 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 be the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The Clean Ohio- Revitalization program provides funding to local governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit entities to enable them to acquire and mitigate a Brownfield property, demolish existing structures, and perform infrastructure upgrades in order to redevelop the property. The staff will coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, which include, but are not limited to: coordinating meetings, distributing meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding.

Brownfields - The staff will assist interested communities in preparing a revitalization grant funding application through the Clean Ohio Assistance fund.

Buckeye Hills staff will continue to work with Hocking County as they prepare an application to revitalize a Brownfield property. The application is currently pending and is intended for submission in late 2009 for Clean Ohio funds.

Village of McConnelsville Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Phase III: Sanitary Sewer Relining Project - Staff will assist the Village of McConnelsville with installation of 1,500 linear feet of 12-inch sanitary sewer relining, mobilization/demobilization, and 4 manhole set-ups. This will add an additional 1,705 users in McConnelsville, 696 users in Malta. This project will bolster efforts to develop the industrial area north of the village. Additionally this project will serve four commercial users, create one new business and retain two additional businesses. In total this project will create between 95 and 125 new jobs while retaining at least 70 existing jobs.

Solsil, Inc. Infrastructure Project - Staff will assist the Washington County Commissioners with installation of 4,500 linear feet of 2' force main sanitary sewer, one road crossing, one stream crossing, one new lift station, and improvements to another lift station. This will enable Solsil, Inc. to construct a 150,000 square foot facility for the refining of high-purity silicon for the photovoltaic cell industry. This will create approximately 350 new jobs while retaining 40 existing positions.

City of Athens Circle Drive Access Road Project - Staff will assist the City of Athens in providing a roadway improvement to existing businesses and the new Hickory Creek Continuing Care Facility. Additionally this improvement will allow additional access to other developable properties in this area. This project will help create 115 new jobs at a skilled nursing home facility.

Monroe County Care Center Eighteen Unit Addition - Staff will assist the Monroe County Care Center construct a 6,860 square foot residential care unit to the nursing facility, consisting of eighteen units. This addition will expand badly needed healthcare services in Monroe County. This project will create approximately 11.5 jobs, while retaining 65 existing positions.

Hocking College Hybrid Electric Vehicle Technology Project - Staff will assist Hocking College with the purchase of equipment that will supplement the college's existing Fuel Cells and Automotive Hybrids Associate Degree program, based upon new employer needs in the field of Plug-In Hybrid Electric (PHEV) and total electric vehicles and solar/wind powered charging stations. Additionally, the project will recruit students for training in PHEV applications. This program will enroll a minimum of 15 students in the Automotive Hybrids curriculum with an average course load of 18 credit hours per quarter per student.

Meigs County 911 System - Staff will assist Meigs County with the purchase of equipment to provide 911 emergency services throughout Meigs County. Meigs County is only county in the State of Ohio that does not currently have 911 service. Upon completion of this project, all 88 of Ohio's Counties will have 911 emergency services. This project will provide enhanced and wireless 911 services for 6,021 households, as well as accurate road and address data that can be used for a variety of related projects.

Village of Woodsfield Rubel's Lake Waterline Extension Project - Staff will assist the Village of Woodsfield with the construction of approximately 34,050 feet of 8-inch waterline connecting Rubel's Lake to the Woodsfield Water Treatment Plant. This will increase their raw water supply to meet Ohio EPA's requirements for a 270-day supply. This project will provide raw water to 2,598 residents, 193 commercial establishments, and one industry.

Village of Caldwell Sewer Separation Project - Staff will assist the Village of Caldwell with a project to separate sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems in order to eliminate combined sewer overflows. This project will provide for future growth of supply service to other un-sewered communities in Noble County. This project provides for the

installation of 1,090 l.f. of 6” sanitary sewer service connections, 1,476 l.f. of 8” sanitary pipe, and 420 l.f. of 12” sanitary sewer pipe. This project will provide improved service to 837 users.

City of Nelsonville Pump Station and Sewer Replacement Project - Staff will assist the City of Nelsonville to improve the overall condition of the existing sanitary sewer infrastructure in. This project calls for the removal of one lift station and the replacement of another lift station. These facilities were nearing the end of their expected useful life. As a result of this project, the City of Nelsonville will now be able to better accommodate future development and increase employment opportunities. This project will serve more than 200 students at a local vocational school, more than 2,000 students and faculty at a local college, one hotel, and approximately 75 households.

Village of Racine Infrastructure Development Project - Staff will assist the Village of Racine with infrastructure improvements that will facilitate \$800,000 in private investment for a shopping center. Improvements include water lines, storm drains, and a public road improvement. This project will create 20 new jobs.

Revolving Loan Fund - Buckeye Hills will continue to provide loan financing to businesses within the region using ARC, EDA, FmHA and CDBG funding. As in previous years, these loans, in conjunction with private funding, allow for start up and expansion of businesses when full conventional financing cannot be obtained. Potential loan funding and amounts must be approved on a case by case basis by the RLF committee, and are related to job creation and retention figures for the region.

Housing Program – Buckeye Hills will continue to staff and operate a housing modification and minor home repair program for eligible residents across the region. This program will focus on combating issues such as rural homelessness and affordable housing. This program will also continue to provide other services such as small home repairs that allow seniors to remain in their own homes, rather than alternative living facilities.

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).**

Regional Prioritization/ 2009 ARRA

During 2008, Buckeye Hills staff continued 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 that maximum regional benefit is achieved. Buckeye Hills staff will continue to advocate for this type of activity not only for water and sewer projects, but for all projects seeking funding via programs offered by the district. Organization and submission of projects seeking ARRA (stimulus) funds exemplified the continuing need for this type of project prioritization in the Buckeye Hills region.

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, 2008 and April 16, 2009, we received notification of three 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.

Development District of Appalachia (DDAA)

Buckeye Hills has been an active member of the Development District of Association of Appalachia, which is an organization made up of all 74 local development districts encompassing the 420 Appalachian counties in the United States. Participation in this organization not only allows us to work better with other Local Development Districts throughout the 13 state Appalachian region, but it also helps us develop better programming and project offerings to best suit the needs of our region while staying abreast of regional and national trends and best practices.

Result: Buckeye Hills staff in prior years only participated as a member organization, but now has staff on the DDAA board, and the DDAA training committee. Buckeye Hills has been heavily involved in planning the DDAA GIS Training Conference for the past 3 years. The conference was most recently held in Huntsville Alabama on March 31 and April 1, 2009.

Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission

Buckeye Hills continued to participate on the advisory board of the Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission. The purpose of this commission is to keep public officials and local agencies informed about transportation projects proposed and underway in Wood, Washington, and Wirt counties in southern Ohio and western West Virginia.

Result: As a result of these efforts, Buckeye Hills staff was able to effectively notify and apprise local municipalities and governments about current and upcoming transportation based projects that will be taking place within their jurisdictions. Some of the most recent projects have been larger in scale, requiring coordination between multiple jurisdictions to ensure a smooth continuation of traffic flow and movement.

State Route 32/ U.S. 50 Corridor Study

Buckeye Hills continues to participate in activities contributing to the completion of the SR 32/ US 50 Corridor Study. During 2007 and 2008, 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. This program has been extended in order to expand the overall scope of this study. This project is scheduled to conclude in December 2009.

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.

Result: Out of these collaborative workings, broadband coverage for rural Ohio has emerged as a major objective set forth by Congressman Space. All three Ohio LDD’s worked closely in late 2008 to begin forming a major broadband coverage project/ concept, which continues to gain momentum today. Sources of funding are being evaluated and considered for a potential application during 2009.

Census 2010

Buckeye Hills was a participant in the Census Bureau Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), an activity undertaken in preparation for the 2010 Census. Census Bureau documentation describes the program activities and goals as the following:

“The 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) will allow designated participants, following Census Bureau guidelines and criteria, to review and update the boundaries for block groups, census tracts, and review and update the boundaries of and define new census designated places (CDPs). The goal of the PSAP is to define meaningful, relevant census tracts, block groups, and CDPs to obtain meaningful, relevant small area and place-level statistical data. The updated boundaries for census tracts, block groups, and CDPs will frame all the

2010 Census tabulations, and will be used for the American Community Survey (ACS) beyond 2010. Data tabulated to these PSAP geographic entities are used by various local, state, and federal agencies and organizations for planning and funding purposes, as well as the private sector, academia, and the public.”

Result: Training for this program was held in Columbus during November 2008. Work on reevaluating and updating Census Tract and Block Group geographies for all eight member counties was completed by Buckeye Hills staff and submitted to U.S. Census Bureau – Detroit staff in March 2009.

Town Hall Meetings

Buckeye Hills hosted a series of Town Hall meetings in each of the eight counties across the district during the summer and fall of 2008. Participants voiced their thoughts on a variety of topics and shared ideas for partnerships that will help Buckeye Hills staff as they work toward solutions.

Result: As a result of these meetings, the true voice of those living in the individual counties and in turn, the entire region was heard, offering needed insight for future activities. The perspectives shared will help Buckeye Hills adjust the program and project offerings in order to best serve those living in the eight-county region. County-by-county reports from these town hall meetings are available on the Buckeye-Hills website.

Media Relations/ Outlets

During the past year Buckeye Hills continued its proactive and reactive Communications strategies including media, community and government relations efforts. The purpose is to raise the awareness of federal, state, and local programs, to increase the awareness of local issues to distant stakeholders (i.e. state and federal elected officials), and to make constituents aware of the programming based at Buckeye Hills.

Result: Buckeye Hills continued the distribution of a monthly Buckeye Hills-HVRDD newsletter, a monthly newsletter for the Area Agency on Aging and special advocacy or funding-related alerts as needed across the district. The electronic monthly newsletters from BH have a distribution of over 500 recipients.

The Communications Department also provided proactive legislative advocacy, and bolstered grassroots efforts to disseminate information about local issues impacting residents. As a result of media relations efforts, BH-HVRDD was able to acquire nearly \$20,000 in complementary media and advertising space for BH-related items and information during 2008.

In addition, interviews were conducted for radio and local television and public television on a variety of topics as time and representatives were available. Ongoing medial relations and relationship building have netted several opportunities for interviews related

to economic development, regional demographic and aging-related issues – key regional media outlets have begun to contact Buckeye Hills as an “expert source.”

In terms of government relations, Buckeye Hills has hosted a variety of on-site and in-district meetings with state and federal legislators and funding partners to inform and educate on issues and concerns. The communications team coordinated with state and national associations on a variety of advocacy projects on issues ranging from infrastructure and transportation to senior services and the Appalachian region. Buckeye Hills hosted and facilitated meetings with all state and federal legislators throughout 2008 in the district and in Washington, D.C.

Monroe County Economic Development Contract (2006-2007)

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 its role as the region’s A-95 clearinghouse; and in this role provided assistance to officials and agencies in the District by reviewing and receiving comments on projects being completed throughout the region.

Result: All reviews have been completed in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations. The Clearinghouse reviewed 54 projects during fiscal year 2008. 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.

Regional Economic Development Study

During fiscal year 2008, Buckeye Hills also began pursuing funding to complete a feasibility study that would help to create a cohesive brand and marketing image for the counties in Southeastern Ohio.

Result: This endeavor was partly funded during 2008 with a grant from American Electric Power (AEP). Once fully funded, this project will develop new promotional materials coupled with a concentrated focus on regional economic development supported by local economic development officials and led by Buckeye Hills. Local economic development professionals feel this will yield significant benefits for the region.

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.

During 2007-2008 Buckeye Hills participated in a total of 108 projects, with a total project cost of \$67,907,099. Administrative cost totals for these projects were \$884,109. For every one dollar in administration funds, Buckeye Hills leveraged \$76.81 in project funds. From these projects 1,325 jobs were created or retained

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The Buckeye Hills – HVRDD submitted the 2009 CEDS Annual Report to the EDA for review in June 2009. The next CEDS is due June 30, 2010. The 2010 edition of the CEDS will be a full revision.

Result: The 2008 CEDS Annual Report was submitted and accepted by the EDA during late 2008. Buckeye Hills' staff is in the process of completing the CEDS annual report for 2009. This annual report is due to the Chicago Regional Office on June 30, 2009. The Annual Report contains an update of the past years' activities, a listing of the next years anticipated activities, updated statistics, and an updated discussion of last years CEDS document and issues facing economic development in the region.

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 2008, 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. Of the 179 data requests received during the reporting period, 113 (60.12%) were requests for census maps, customized GIS maps, or GIS data.

The major activities of the GIS program from July 1, 2008 to April 17, 2009 were as follows:

City of Marietta – Updated corporation line, updated zoning data (in progress), flood modeling and early flood warning project, and GPS data collection of water distribution and public wastewater services (in progress). Buckeye Hills staff also served as GIS Coordinator for the City of Marietta on a contract basis.

Further major economic development activities are severely hampered in the City of Marietta due to the fact that the current wastewater processing facility is over-capacity, and cannot accept any new large service connections without a plant upgrade. The data being collected is being used to analyze the current system capacity and to assist in planning the needed upgrades.

Washington County – Updated digital tax map files, updated and corrected street centerline data, updated and corrected county addressing data, creation of Emergency Service Zones (911), creation of wireless telephone carrier tower data, update of voting districts and polling places, and creation of voting maps in support of 2008 elections. Buckeye Hills staff also serves in the GIS Coordination capacity for Washington County

Village of Racine (Meigs County) – GPS collection of water meters, public water valves, fire hydrants, digitized water main lines, addressing information, and completion of natural gas distribution data.

This data was collected and is being used as the mayor actively seeks to attract economic development opportunities (i.e. retail expansion, housing development, etc) to this small village in southern Meigs County.

Meigs County – Buckeye Hills was contacted by a group of mayors and local water superintendents he head up an effort to collect public water and sewer distribution mapping data. The purpose of this effort is to create a single map showing all the public water and wastewater facilities operating in Meigs County. This will allow for greater knowledge of community resources, and has been written in parallel with an existing mutual aid agreement between these entities in Meigs County.

During fiscal year 2008 Buckeye Hills also worked on smaller GIS projects with local soil and water districts, convention and visitor bureaus, local educational groups, port authorities, economic development groups, and private citizens.

Buckeye Hills staff also coordinates two GIS user groups in the region, one for Washington County that meets monthly, and one for the entire region that meets as needed or as demanded. Along with these activities, Buckeye Hills also participates on a GIS Advisory Committee and Technical Users Group in Athens County, as well as a GIS/GPS Educational Curriculum Committee at Hocking College in Nelsonville Ohio.

During the spring of 2009, Buckeye Hills received a grant from the EDA and the Ohio Governors Office of Appalachia (GOA) to expand and enhance the existing GIS program. These new funds will be used to purchase server based GIS technology that will allow Buckeye Hills to move some of their GIS information and customized maps on to the internet. Buckeye Hills intends to offer this service to local communities as a way to introduce the tool of GIS to local parties without the large investment in hardware, software, and training generally required to implement GIS. These funds will also allow for the purchase of a new GPS unit and other supporting hardware to expand our Asset Management Program. Final notice of the grant awards was received in May 2009.

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.

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

Result: The website buckeyehills.org received over 332,000 hits between July 1, 2008 and April 17, 2008; averaging 1,140 hits per day during that time. This is 120,000 more hits than were recorded during the reporting period last year.

Buckeye Hills participated in The Eastern Ohio Development Alliance, an independent, non-profit organization created to promote economic growth in the Eastern Ohio region through regional cooperation. Misty Casto, Exec. Director, participated as a Board member and leader with the Legislative Affairs Committee and staff members attended its annual meetings.

Buckeye Hills serves as the SE Ohio (Ohio Dept. of Development Region 11) Team Ohio leads coordinator. In 2008, through utilization of a summer intern, Buckeye Hills proactively coordinated planning meetings with regional Economic Developers and created an electronic regional needs assessment/input survey related to regional marketing. Buckeye Hills also provided input for enhancements to the Region 11 section of the ODOD web site.

Buckeye Hills coordinated a forum to discuss regional efforts with representatives from The Ohio Dept. of Development (ODOD), The Ohio Business Development Coalition (OBDC) and The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA). District economic development leaders were on hand to discuss the regional approach to handling business lead management, brand development and best practices. As a member of "Team OHIO," Buckeye Hills will serve as the region's coordinator for the Team OHIO lead management system. Focused on target marketing, industry trade shows, conferences, and visits with corporate executives/site selection professionals, Team OHIO underscores the message, "Ohio Means Business."

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. In order to achieve the widest possible distribution, this information is included in our monthly newsletter.

Result: Below is a summary of data requests for Fiscal Year 2008.

Data Requests
Ranked by Number of Requests

Organization	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Government	131	73.18%
Business	20	11.17%
Acad./ Research	10	5.59%
Priv. Citizen	8	4.47%
Media	6	3.35%
Comm. Org/ Non. Prof.	4	2.23%
Totals	179	

Type of Request	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Other GIS Map	101	56.42%
Misc. Community Prof.	24	13.41%
Census Maps	14	7.82%
Population	12	6.70%
Income	12	6.70%
Labor Force	11	6.15%
	5	2.79%
Totals	179	

The Data Center received 179 requests between July 1, 2008 and April 17, 2008. Services requests came from community organizations, private citizens, businesses, academic/ research bodies, and local units of government. Over seventy 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 101 of the 179 total requests (56.42%).

Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Acquisition Project (2008)

3. Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.

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 200 households in Malta and Penn Townships. This project will 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 was started in September 2007.

Result: The West Malta Rural Water Project suffered a long delay due to contractor issues. All 22 miles of water line have been installed, with total project costs at this time of \$2,784,326. No low-to-moderate-income water hookups are complete at this time.

New contractors have been identified and construction activities should resume during the spring of 2009. All construction is scheduled to be completed by December 2009.

Noble County Water

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

Result: The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funds for the Noble County Water Project. Environmental Review work has been completed. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2009.

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, and construction began in January 2008. The project involves the installation of approximately 7 miles of water line and services approximately 65 homes. The project will promote positive community growth.

Result: General construction on the Reno Water Project was completed in January 2009, installing 50,274 LF of waterline along nine miles, and serving 65 households with clean water. Total project cost was \$756,760. Reclamation activities have yet to be completed.

Amesville Sewer Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Village of Amesville in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that financed a sewer service project to approximately 71 households and 13 businesses. The estimated cost of the project was \$1,089,858.25, and construction began in July 2007.

Result: CDBG funds were used to complete installation of sewer hook-ups to 27 low-to-moderate-income households. Total project cost was \$1,315,768, which included engineering and inspection, and the provision of improved wastewater service to 71 households and 13 businesses. General construction for The Village of Amesville Decentralized Sewer Project was completed in October 2008.

Washington County Formula -2007

Buckeye Hills served as administrators 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: Staff is currently administering the 2007 Washington County Formula Grant, which includes the following activities: improvements and purchase of equipment for one senior center; home/building repair for the county; and fire protection for two townships. The total project cost for the above projects will be approximately \$315,566. At the time of this report, only one project remains to be completed.

Washington County Formula -2008

Buckeye Hills served as administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2008, assisting the grantee by; assuring that the selected projects in Washington County comply with funding requirements; checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations; participating in the bidding process for contracts; attending pre-construction conferences; completing status reports; consulting with independent auditor at the time of final audit; and replying to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners.

Result: Staff assisted Washington County by completing the CDBG application for 2008. Funding was secured in the amount of \$172,000, to be used on the following projects: home repair for the county; purchase of equipment for one fire department; building construction/renovation on one fire department and one senior center; one historical building renovation for ADA purposes; and fair housing activities for the county. Total project costs are estimated at \$500,785. All projects are currently out for bid.

State Capital Improvement/ Local Transportation Improvement Program

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

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

Result: Buckeye Hills staff assisted the District 18 Integrating Committee in rating applications and activity coordination. The District 18 Integrating Committee has submitted 20 SCIP/LTIP applications and 10 Small Government applications from Round 23 to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding.

Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program

The Community Development Staff serves as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, 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 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: Staff accepted eight (8) applications totaling \$1,129,965. Applications will be sent to Ohio Public Works Commission in January 2009, with approval coming by March 2009.

Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program

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

Result: No applications were received for funding during the year.

Job Ready Sites

As the Liaison for District 18 of the Ohio Public Works Commission, Buckeye Hills also administers the Ohio Job Ready Sites Program. The Ohio Job Ready sites (JRS) program is intended to stimulate the compilation and development of large parcels of land, and in some cases large buildings, that ultimately will attract significant investments and create high wage job opportunities for Ohioans.

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 or consideration for funding under the JRS program.

Result: No applications were received for this program during the reporting period.

Brownfield Revitalization

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

Result: Buckeye Hills staff worked with Hocking County's on-going application to revitalize a brownfield property. The application is currently pending and is intended for submission in late 2009 for Clean Ohio funds.

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.

Southeastern Ohio Port Authority U.S. EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant Program (2008)

Tuppers Plains Water and Sewer District (2008)

Washington County Formula -2006 (2008)

Bishopville Water Project (2008)

Reno Water Project (2008)

North Muskingum River Corridor (2008)

State Route 32/ U.S. 50 Corridor Study (2008)

State Route 32/ State Route 78 Corridor Advisory Board (2008)

Monroe County Black Walnut Center Renovation Project (2008)

Water and Sewer Board Member Training (2006-2007)

Washington County Formula – 2005 (2006-2007)

Tri-County Water Project (2005)

Old Straitsville Water Project (2005)

PEW (2005)

Village of Chauncey Infrastructure (2005)

Coffee Ridge Water Project (2005)

Washington County Formula – 2003 (2005)

Washington County Formula – 2004 (2005)

Morgan County Formula – 2003 (2005)

Morgan County Formula – 2004 (2005)

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

Revolving Loan Fund

Buckeye Hills provided loan financing 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. All loan funds and amounts are related to job creation and retention figures for the region.

Result: During fiscal year 2008, the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund closed 4 loans totaling \$410,402. These funds leveraged an additional \$1,529,302 in other public and private funding. These loan projects created or retained a total of 68 private sector jobs.

Appalachianohio.com Regional Advisory Board

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

RENEW Ohio-18

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

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

Connect Ohio

During the past year Buckeye Hills staff has been actively participating in the planning and visioning process initiated by Connect Ohio. The main objective of this group is to spread the availability and adoption of high speed internet service across Ohio, while also expanding the overall use and adoption of computers by Ohio’s populous. Connect Ohio has also undertaken an initiative to more accurately map existing broadband services and facilities currently available throughout the state.

Result: Buckeye Hills has been cooperating with the leaders of the Connect Ohio group since its inception. This group has been holding community based meetings in all 88 counties with the focus on helping counties identify potential projects that will improve the aforementioned areas, as well as identify areas of local expertise, local partners, and potential funding sources for these identified projects. It is hoped that if funding becomes available through the ARRA or through traditional funding sources that the plans formulated through this initiative would help communities in our region secure a portion of that available funding.

Trickle Up Grant Program (2008)

Employee Workforce Assessment (2008)

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 2008, Buckeye Hills continued to operate a housing modification and minor home repair program. This program focuses on combating issues such as rural homelessness and affordable housing. This program also provides other services such as small home repairs that allow seniors to remain in their own homes, 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, the Senior Community Services Title III Block Grant and funds from the U.S.D.A. Rural Development program.

Result: Last year these funds were used to do handicap accessibility needs and minor home repair to 26 homes owned by senior citizens in our eight county region.

Small Business Development

The Appalachian Development Corporation and Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District opened the Thomas A. Closser Business Center in Marietta, Ohio, for regional business development in October 2007.

Result: The Closser Center currently has 12 of 16 offices available for lease, ranging from 99-209 square feet and is conveniently located near SR 7 and I-77. The two-story building has two conference rooms, storage space, kitchen area, four restrooms, and convenient parking. Secretarial Support, high speed internet, phone and fax services are provided for a small fee.

Meigs Rio Grande (2006-2007)

Home Health Aide Training Program (2005)

CEDS 2009

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Appendix A

Administrative Staff

Misty Casto	Jen Myers
Executive Director	Program Assistant
Frederick Hindman	Amanda Casto
Assistant Executive Director	Secretary/ Receptionist
Douglas Dye	Brandi Hesson
Director of Fiscal Operations	Secretary/ Receptionist
Brenda Wolfe	Angie Robinson
Fiscal Assistant	Secretary/ Receptionist
Debbie Parsons	Dee Starkey
Fiscal Assistant	Secretary/Receptionist

Community Development Dept.

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

Area Agency on Aging

Frederick Hindman	Darlene VanDine
Area Agency on Aging Director	Care Coordinator
Vacant	Jayne Yates
Area Agency on Aging Deputy Director	Case Manager/ Assessor
Vacant	Vicki Bennett
Nutrition Coordinator	Case Manager/ Assessor
Jane Skeen	Patricia Biehl
Home Care Director	Case Manager/ Assessor
Denise Keyes	Kathryn Brammer
Fiscal Manager	Case Manager/ Assessor
Kimberly Flanigan	Sandra Cisler
Long Term Care Ombudsman Director	Case Manager/ Assessor
Suzanne Lassiter	Alta Coffman
Long Term Care Volunteer Coordinator	Case Manager/ Assessor
Glenda Collins	Anita Offenberger
Clinical Supervisor	Case Manager/ Assessor
Kimberly Steed	Christina Horn
Clinical Supervisor	Case Manager/ Assessor
Patricia Palmer	Angie Scott
Clinical Supervisor	Case Manager/ Assessor
Jennifer Andros	Kerry Nicholson
Clinical Assistant	Case Manager/ Assessor
Kelli Lewis	Veronica Norman
Clinical Assistant	Case Manager/ Assessor
Judy Kuhn	Chris Platt
Quality Improvement Coordinator	Case Manager/ Assessor
Nancy Morris	Lynn Gedeon
Quality Improvement Manager	Case Manager/ Assessor
Misty Anderson	Jennifer Fuller
Quality Improvement Assistant	Case Manager/ Assessor
Tina Parker	Jamie Sweeney
Quality Improvement Assistant	Case Manager/ Assessor
James Lewis	Iris Cottrill
MIS Manager	Case Manager/ Assessor
Cathy Ash	Lisa Keaveney
Trainer	Case Manager/ Assessor
Mindy Cayton	Amy Arnold
Planner	Contract Assessor
Joe Gage	Lindsay Place
Housing Coordinator	Screeener
Diane Keith	Gerri VanNoy
Screeener	Screeener
Kara Wright	Sherry Crawford
Screeener	Clinical Assistant
Janie Collins	Sarah Swisher
Program Assistant	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

2009 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	0
5. Distress level	
Distressed	10
Not distressed	0