

What's rollin'?

MRCI Environmental/Recreation Enhancement

On January 28, 2011, the Environmental/Recreation Committee and Mahoning River Consortium met with representatives of the Ohio EPA who made a presentation on opportunities that may exist to address the removal of selected dams in the river corridor.

MRCI Steering Committee

At the February 4, 2011 MRCI Steering Committee meeting, a number of suggestions were made with regard to the prospects of dam removal on how to proceed, who to involve, and when in investigating the possibilities. Although the effort would be coordinated through the MRCI, it was agreed the MRCI needs more information from OEPA with regard to the sources of funding available, the complexity of the funding criteria and feasibility, in light of CERCLA concerns raised by the US Army Corp of Engineers Feasibility Study. The MRCI Environmental/Recreation Enhancement Committee will be pursuing the matter further.

Among other next steps identified at the meeting were:

- Investigate possible funding sources to add lighting on Lower Connector Bridge.
- Continue working with corridor communities in advancing brownfield projects and related infrastructure improvements. Currently, additional brownfield assessment and remediation projects are advancing in McDonald, Girard, Niles, Warren, Youngstown, Struthers and Campbell.
- Work with Lien Forward Ohio regarding parcel issues impeding corridor projects, on implementation of the 422 Enhancement Project and invite Lien Forward to be a member on the MRCI Steering Committee.
- MRCI and WRPA to continue researching intermodal possibilities with potential private sector partners.
- Initiate discussions with Sherman International, Campbell and Youngstown with regard to MRCO roadway extension west from existing roadway in Campbell.
- Advance the Woodland/Hadnet and Girard Lowlands Environmental Enhancement Projects.
- Support implementation of the proposed Trumbull Metro Parks Water Trail.
- Continue work on the NEO HUD Sustainable Communities Consortium to advance MRCI objectives.

Business Resource Network Addresses Corridor Mayors' Association

At the January 28, 2011 Mahoning River Corridor Mayors' Association meeting, Mr. Gene Babik, Business Resource Network Manager, made a presentation about the Business Resource Network and how the BRN can help businesses and

communities. The BRN provides businesses with assistance to address the specific challenges and opportunities they may be facing and provides them with actionable ideas and strategies to help them survive and grow. BRN provides another tool for networking with businesses and promoting economic development.

Currently, there are thirty-eight partner organizations working with the Business Resource Network, which has completed nearly one hundred client interviews resulting in over sixty proposals to help businesses address their needs. Mr. Babik emphasized there is no cost to join the BRN.

For more about the Business Resource Network go to www.TheBRN.net or contact Gene Babik at 330 – 965 – 1787, ext. 7140.

The Corridor Mayors' Association also welcomed new mayors Lyle Waddell from Newton Falls and William Van Such from Campbell to the Corridor Mayors' Association.

Brownfield Funding Summary

Clean Ohio Essential to Corridor Brownfield Efforts

A review of federal and state brownfield programs from 1999 through 2010 shows corridor communities have accessed over \$12 million dollars in brownfield assessment and/or remediation funding for twenty-five brownfield projects involving over 300 acres. Of that amount, approximately \$11 million has been provided by the Clean Ohio Program since 2002 and \$1 million by Federal Brownfield Programs.

Among the corridor communities that received funding for various projects were Youngstown, Warren, Struthers, Campbell and Girard.

Creation of County-wide Land Banks Advance

As a result of legislation passed by the Ohio General assembly in 2010, Trumbull and Mahoning Counties are moving forward in implementing Community Land Revitalization Corporations (CLRC) - more commonly known as County – wide land banks. One has already been established in Trumbull County and another is expected to get the Mahoning County Commissioners approval in the near future.

The MRCI and Mahoning River Corridor Mayors' Association have endorsed the creation of CLRCs in both counties as a way to more effectively address abandoned, tax delinquent properties.

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