

**Brooke County EDA Meeting Minutes**  
August 31, 2016 at 5:30pm  
Brooke Library, Elmer Vincent Room

**Attendance:** Patty Welling-Treasurer, Ruby Greathouse, Shari Beckstrand, Honorable Tim Ennis, Honorable Stacey Wise, Honorable Mayor Pat Sutherland, Honorable Mayor David Velegol, City Manager Steve Maguschak, Councilman Brian Tennant, BDC Director Pat Ford, Amy Nickerson- WV Attorney General Office Representative, Senior Center Director Laura Beckleheimer, News Reporter Warren Scott, Ed Powell- SBDC, Richard Daigle- SBA and Norm Schwertfeger- Secretary.

~ Chair John Casinelli was unavailable and Secretary Norm Schwertfeger called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**Minutes from previous meeting were made available and approved on motion by Steve Maguschak second by Patty Welling and passed.**

**Financial Report was given by Patty Welling- Treasurer.** Balance of \$28,445.16 as of August 31, 2016.

**Small Business Development Center Presentation-** Norm Schwertfeger introduced Ed Powell with the SBDC and Ed gave a Power Point presentation of the services provided through the SBDC including classes on starting your own business, etc.

**SBA Public Affairs Update-** Ed Powell introduced Richard Daigle with the SBA to discuss recent flooding in Follansbee and relief options available. Richard indicated there were no grants available because this was not declared a federal disaster through FEMA due to the numbers affected and overall loss sustained. There are federal low interest loans available for businesses and that information was shared and discussed. Richard discussed the low interest loans available for businesses and personal losses due to the flood. The physical damage deadline to report is October 24<sup>th</sup> with Economic injury deadline is May 2017. Contact 1-800-659-2955 to discuss further about flood losses and loan options for those affected.

**USDA Loan and Grant Project Update-** Jon Rogers was not in attendance to give this report.

**Former Board of Education/Incubator Building Update-** Shari reported that she remains very interested in talking with new business startups that may want to lease space in the building. She is continuing to make repairs inside and accessible access to the building.

**Update from Municipalities, Towns, Villages-**  
No report from *Beech Bottom*.

*Bethany* Mayor Pat Sutherland was present and he reported that Bethany residents conducted a flood relief effort to support Follansbee residents and business loss. New Coffee shop opened in August and serves community from 8am-3pm. The new Christian Church Archives will be dedicated September.

Follansbee Mayor David Velegol was present and reported on the City of Follansbee. Follansbee raised \$115,000 from auction and donations and the funds will be distributed in early September. The existing baseball fields along route 2 have been graded and have been re-sodded and will be ready for use in the Spring of 2017. Follansbee will celebrate Christmas in the Park October 8&9 this year. There will be a 9/11 Ceremony in Follansbee MC by our Chairman John Casinelli the Mayor reported.

No report from Weirton.

Wellsburg City Manager Steve Maguschak and Councilman Brian Tennant were present to report for Wellsburg. Steve reported that construction on utility repairs will be completed within next few weeks. Building codes are being enforced with abandoned fuel stations, and other properties. Developing long term plan for water treatment replacement. Flood plain issues causing increase insurance rates are being worked on for businesses and residences. Brian reported the Urban Redevelopment Authority is working on the 2 abandoned gas stations, car wash and public hearing slated for 9/13 at 6:30pm.

**Development Updates-**  
**County Assessor- Tom Oughton- No Report**

**BDC NP-** Director Pat Ford was present and reported for the BDC. The BDC met with BHJ related to the \$600,000 Port Authority funding that will be released October 1. The term port authority is actually misnomer because the funding is through that source but actually entails funding for the brownfield Projects throughout the region. Cleanups include contaminated soil clean-ups at Beech Bottom plant. Also funding to raise front area of Brooke Glass and prepare the remaining building for development. Reported on the Industrial access road in Follansbee Koppers area, Weirton 3 Springs Drive business relocating and creating synergy and interest in vacant properties in Weirton.

**BHJ Regional Metropolitan Planning Council- Mike Paprocki- No Report**

**County Commissioners-** Stacey Wise and Tim Ennis were present. Stacey reported that the BDC Director was present and they cover most of the Economic development updates for them. Tim reported on the Courthouse Annex and raising The Miller Tavern, discussion ensued.

**WV Development Office- Matt Borrer- No Report**

**Senior Center Report-** Senior Center Director, Laura Beckleheimer was present and reported on the flood losses with the Senior Center. Seven to nine vehicles were totaled by the flood and three were also flooded but not deemed totaled, although they are very adversely affected. Building floors require replacement. They had no flood insurance and will be working with others to attempt to minimize the significant losses to the building. The Senior Center is getting help from City of Follansbee throughout the devastation as well as state and local elected officials.

**Brooke Hills Park-** No report from the Park given.

**Brooke Board of Education-** No report from the board of Education given.

**Trainings-**

Brownfield Conference- is in Charleston September 6-8. BDC staff and Norm Schwertfeger will attend.

WV Economic Development Fall Conference is September 18-20 in Eastern Panhandle. BDC and Norm Schwertfeger will attend.

**Events-**

Brooke County Fair is scheduled for September 9-11 at Brooke Hills Park.

Regional Tourism Meeting – Regional Tourism meeting with the 5 Northern Panhandle counties is scheduled for Oglebay Park Wilson Lodge on September 13 at 11:00am.

Chili Cook Off- Scheduled for October 1 at the Weirton Event Center.

Wellsburg Applefest- Scheduled for October 7-9

Follansbee Christmas in the Park- Scheduled for October 8-9

**Next Meeting Date-** The next regular scheduled meeting of the EDA is set for September 28th at the Brooke Library 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Norman Schwertfeger* Norm Schwertfeger, Secretary- BCEDA