



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 1, 2022

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order | Kevin Ritter, Treasurer
- II. Roll Call | Misty Crosby, Executive Director, Secretary (per BHRC Bylaws)
- III. Consent Agenda | Kevin Ritter, Treasurer TAB #1
- IV. Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Update & Next Steps Discussion
| Peter Voderberg, Chief of Broadband Ohio, Development Services Agency
- V. Connecting Appalachia Broadband Maps | Ryan Collins, Special Projects Manager TAB #2
Broadband Coordinator
- VI. Audit Budget Committee Report | Kevin Ritter, Treasurer TAB #3
 - a. Recommendation of Administrative Budget: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 to the General Policy Council
 - b. Request for Approval of Expenditures
- VII. Development Division Updates | Sam Miller, Development Director TAB #4
 - a. Resolution Granting Permission to Apply for an EDA Partnership Planning Assistance Grant
 - b. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of the ODOD PY2021 Appalachian Development Program from the State of Ohio to Partner with Building Bridges to Careers to Provide a Summer Stem Camp for Middle and High School Students in the Appalachian Ohio Region
- VIII. RISE Ohio Update | Kate Perani, Special Projects Manager RISE Ohio
- IX. SolSmart Regional Designation Update | Rick Hindman, Assistant Executive Director
- X. Executive Director Update | Misty Crosby TAB #5
- XI. Citizen Participation
- XII. Other Business TAB #6
- XIII. Adjournment

THE GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 6, 2022

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CONSENT AGENDA

- **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2022 MEETING**
- **STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**
 - **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE REPORT**
 - **AGING & DISABILITY PROGRAM SERVICE REPORT**
- **DIVISION & DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**
 - **ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
 - **AGING & DISABILITY DIVISION**
 - **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**
 - **DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**
 - **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Minutes of the March 4, 2022
Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee Meeting**

The Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) Executive Committee meeting was held March 4, 2022. The meeting was held at Buckeye Hills, Marietta, Ohio.

In attendance were:

OFFICERS:	Ron Moore, President	Morgan County (Private Sector)
	Lenny Eliason, Vice President	Athens County
	Kevin Ritter, Treasurer	Washington County

EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE:	Tim Ihle	Meigs County
	Diane Ullom	Monroe County (Private Sector)
	Adam Shriver	Morgan County
	Brad Peoples	Noble County
	Ben Carpenter	Perry County
	Jeff Dennis	Perry County (Private Sector)
	Josh Schlicher	City of Marietta

**GENERAL
POLICY**

COMMITTEE:	Mick Schumacher	Monroe County
	James Booth	Washington County
	Brad Webb	Washington County

GUESTS:	John Carey	Governor's Office of Appalachia
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STAFF:	Misty Crosby	Executive Director
	Rick Hindman	Assistant Executive Director
	Denise Keyes	Fiscal Director
	Sam Miller	Development Director
	Jenny Simmons	Executive Assistant
	Drew Tanner	Communications Director
	Jennifer Westfall	Aging & Disability Director
	Melissa Zoller	Transportation Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Ron Moore, President, called the meeting to order.

ROLE CALL

Misty Crosby, Executive Director, conducted roll call.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF APPALACHIA UPDATE

John Carey provided updates from the Governor's Office of Appalachia to the members.

CONSENT AGENDA

Lenny Eliason moved to approve the consent agenda which included the Minutes from the January 7, 2022 meeting; Statement of Activities, Administrative Expense YTD; Quarterly Budget Report; Aging and Disability Programs Services and Funding Report for period July 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022, and Division and Director's Reports. Kevin Ritter seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

RATIFICATION OF ACTION BY PRESIDENT ON THE EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT CONTRACT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Kevin Ritter moved to ratify the action of the President to enter in to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Executive Search Firm for Executive Director Recruitment. The Audit Budget Committee approved President Ron Moore to sign the \$10,000 Memorandum of Understanding with SouthEast Regional Directors Institute (SERDI) via email prior to the Executive Committee meeting to enable SERDI to begin their work to adhere to the project timeline for the search. Josh Schlicher seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

DATE CHANGE: GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL MEETING

Diane Ullom moved to approve the date change for General Policy Council meeting from Friday, April 1, 2022 to Friday May 6, 2022. Lenny Eliason seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

Tim Ihle moved to approve the Bylaws changes as presented and recommend approval by the General Policy Council at the annual meeting. Lenny Eliason seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

FISCAL DIRECTOR UPDATE

Tim Ihle moved to approve the Perry & Associates Single Audit Agreement Extension. Lenny Eliason seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Ben Carpenter moved to approve the Medibag Pharmacy Outreach Agreement. Lenny Eliason seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Brian Howard moved adoption of the Resolution to Approve the 2022 Monroe County Coordinated Transit Plan. Adam Shriver seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Tim Ihle moved to approve the Ohio Department of Transportation Authorizing Resolution: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities in Monroe, Noble and Washington Counties. Lenny Eliason seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Diane Ullom moved to approve the Ohio Department of Transportation Authorizing Resolution: Capital Cost of Contracting Non-Emergency Medical Transportation in Monroe, Noble and Washington Counties. Brad Peoples seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Melissa Zoller, Transportation Manager, announced that BHRC was awarded three contracts for non-emergency medical transportation in the amount of \$180,000 to service residents of Washington County until December 31, 2022.

Zoller announced the federal allocation from the Appalachian Regional Commission increased to \$239,400 for FY2022. This is an additional \$30,400 from last year.

COMMUNITY PATHWAYS HUB MODEL

Ben Carpenter moved to approve BHRC to participate in the Community Pathways HUB Model with Access Tuscarawas and negotiate contract terms favorable to BHRC. Kevin Ritter seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Misty Crosby provided an update on the Executive Director Search. Eleven out of seventeen dues paying members responded to the survey sent by SERDI. The Committee is scheduled to meet, in-person, on March 24 to finalize the job posting, rating criteria and the application logistics.

Crosby announced that staff and board members would be attending the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Annual Conference and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Policy Conference from March 13 to March 16, 2022. During the conference, the Local Development Districts will hold a luncheon for the legislators and staff of Appalachia's Federal US delegation and present the 2021 Return on Investment. Crosby reported that BHRC completed 14 projects from the LDD's combined 44 projects.

Crosby asked the committee members to save the date of May 6, 2022 for the General Policy Council Annual Meeting.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

No citizens present wished to address the committee.

OTHER

James Booth, Washington County Commissioner and General Policy Council, commented that he would like everyone to keep the broadband topic in the forefront of all conversations. Crosby responded that BHRC has a designated employee, Ryan Collins, that devotes his time to broadband and will be scheduling a meeting for the newly created Broadband Committee in March.

Brad Peoples asked the members if they were finding it difficult to find people willing to work in various positions around the counties. Several members commented on what they are facing in their counties.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Lenny Eliason moved to adjourn the meeting. Brad Peoples seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Approved By: _____
Misty Crosby, Secretary

Date: _____



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

July 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022

YEAR TO DATE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE DETAIL

Administrative Expenses for Fiscal Year 2022 totaled \$3,623,672.88 at February 28.

- This total represents 58.53% of the Council's administrative budget utilized. Total spending for this time period is budgeted to be 67%.
- Insurance, Software and Licenses and Subscriptions are above the 58% spending budget as most of these costs are paid in the beginning of the year.
- Employee/Governing Board expenses are higher due to gifts for the holidays.
- Spending for Advertising, Communications, Legal, Other, Printing, Supplies and Travel-Out of Town Expense is higher than anticipated and will be monitored closely and reconciled during our budget review process.
- Staff position vacancies also account for underspending in Salary and Fringe Benefits.
- As new projects and funds are awarded, budgets are adjusted and presented to the Committee quarterly.
- The cumulative Indirect Cost rate for this period is 47%. Projected Indirect Costs for Fiscal Year 2022 are 53%.

AGING AND DISABILITY PROGRAMS SERVICES & FUNDING REPORT

The Aging and Disability Division worked with various service providers and helped administer a multitude of direct service programs to eligible residents of our eight-county region. Between July 1 and February 28, over \$7 million in direct service dollars were utilized to provide the units of service listed in the report. BHRC continues to support our provider network to evaluate the needs of the communities and serve area seniors in the best way possible during the current pandemic.



Administrative Expense Detail
For the Period July 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022

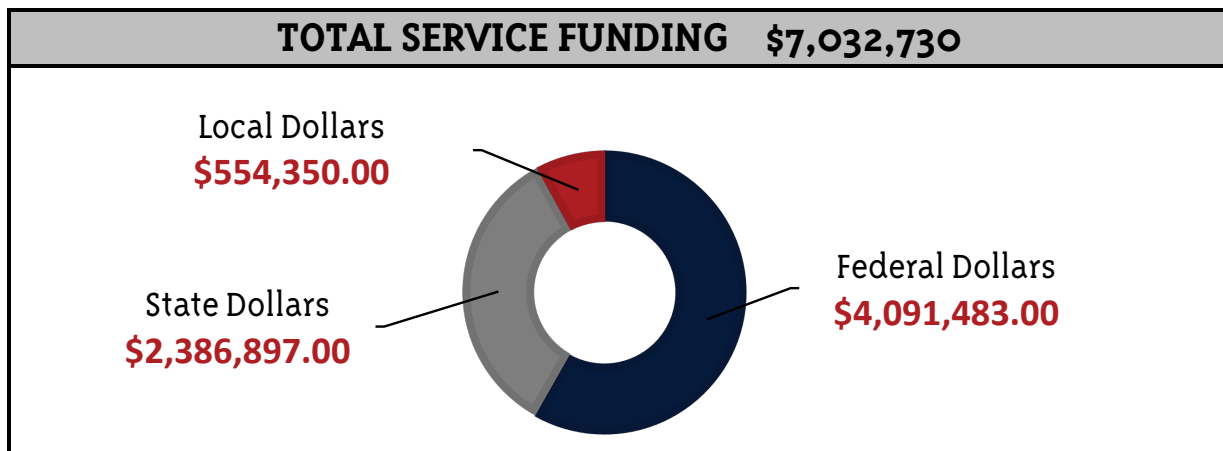
	2021 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Actual	2022 Budget	% of Budget
Salary	\$ 1,962,062.42	\$ 1,955,520.36	\$ 3,092,717.30	63.23%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 837,260.21	\$ 872,600.28	\$ 1,499,755.26	58.18%
Advertising	\$ 62,937.00	\$ 88,756.87	\$ 119,220.25	74.45%
Audit Costs	\$ 13,470.00	\$ 13,470.00	\$ 30,000.00	44.90%
Building Maintenance	\$ 6,166.00	\$ 6,124.00	\$ 11,000.00	55.67%
Communications	\$ 53,565.00	\$ 67,453.38	\$ 87,884.86	76.75%
Conference Registration Fee	\$ 6,786.00	\$ 24,511.00	\$ 26,200.00	93.55%
Contract Services	\$ 113,398.47	\$ 50,826.18	\$ 554,019.00	9.17%
Employee/Governing Board	\$ 10,518.24	\$ 10,200.80	\$ 15,000.00	68.01%
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	\$ 11,773.87	\$ 6,016.41	\$ 23,350.00	25.77%
Insurance	\$ 33,884.56	\$ 42,062.93	\$ 35,000.00	120.18%
Legal Costs	\$ 3,304.75	\$ 7,141.25	\$ 10,000.00	71.41%
Organizational Dues	\$ 44,699.28	\$ 31,816.40	\$ 38,900.00	81.79%
Other Costs	\$ 6,675.90	\$ 8,184.13	\$ 9,730.00	84.11%
Postage	\$ 12,911.55	\$ 12,524.29	\$ 18,050.00	69.39%
Printing Costs	\$ 5,332.90	\$ 10,104.78	\$ 8,850.00	114.18%
Software & Licenses	\$ 49,181.78	\$ 66,615.26	\$ 104,665.00	63.65%
Space	\$ 1,740,227.27	\$ 170,227.29	\$ 255,342.00	66.67%
Staff Training Fees	\$ 6,297.91	\$ 3,652.82	\$ 8,000.00	45.66%
Subscriptions	\$ 2,159.56	\$ 3,032.85	\$ 3,000.00	101.10%
Supplies	\$ 100,152.20	\$ 119,295.75	\$ 126,376.00	94.40%
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 1,806.78	\$ 21,918.83	\$ 79,800.00	27.47%
Travel - Out of Town Expense	\$ 630.96	\$ 31,617.02	\$ 34,200.00	92.45%
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD	\$ 5,085,202.61	\$ 3,623,672.88	\$ 6,191,059.67	58.53%
INDIRECT COST RATE FOR THE PERIOD	41%	47%		

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

Aging and Disability Programs Services & Funding Report

July 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022

SERVICES PROVIDED		
Direct Service Hours Provided	Transportation Trips	Adult Day Service Days Attended
211,123	8,208	1,134
Adult Day Service Miles Traveled	Meals Provided	Home Medical Equipment & Emergency Response Units
534	212,570	1,691
Legal Services Contacts	Home Accessibility Modification And Pest Control Jobs	Senior Farmers Market Coupons Redeemed
829	45	16,345
Grocery Shopping and Delivery	Telephone Reassurance	Evidence Based Classes
433	467	478
Assisted Living Days	Alzheimers Education Contacts	Senior Volunteer Hours
9,078	114	54,720



REGIONAL STATS		
Total Consumers Served	Total Population	Total Population Eligible for Services by Age (60+)
3,375	260,084	55,147

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Age-Friendly/Athens** | This initiative is a 5-year process intended to ensure that people of all ages can grow healthfully, safely and independently in a supportive and inclusive community. Over 100 local people and partners are engaged in this process that involves addressing 9 domains of livability including: social participation/inclusion; outdoor recreation; housing; transportation; climate resilience; and employment/civic engagement.

BHRC is participating on the Housing Committee, which will resume regular meetings now that the input from the survey have been collected and analyzed.

- **Succession Planning** | SERDI met with the Search Committee on March 24th. A written summary of the BHRC Executive Search Committee Work Session along with the Job Announcement and Grading Sheet have been prepared.
- **SolSmart Designation** | BHRC has started the process to secure SolSmart designation for the region. SolSmart is a national program led by the International City/County Management Association and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), along with a team of partners with deep expertise in solar energy and local governments. The designation program recognizes cities, counties, and regional organizations that foster the development of mature local solar markets. There are currently four communities that have secured local SolSmart designation within the BHRC Region. Those communities are in the process of documenting activities related to solar they have undertaken in the intervening time since their last scoring, thereby updating their scoring for a potential increase in designation level. Through regional designation, BHRC seeks to influence other communities throughout our region to take advantage of the benefits of solar energy. BHRC is currently working on a solar landing page to add to the BHRC website.
- **COVID Office Protocols** | We continue to strongly encourage masking, social distancing and working remotely (when feasible) for our employees
- **Community Health Workers (CHWs) Initiatives** | We now have two CHWs active in connecting home-bound folks up to resources, services and programming. This initiative is in partnership with, and funded by, Ohio University.

We are investigating other potential CHW initiatives, including stationing a CHW in the Buckeye Fields senior housing facility and engaging in the HUB Pathways model, an evidence-based and Medicaid-reimbursable program in which CHWs serve as liaisons between health/social services and the community to facilitate better access to quality health services.

We are currently in discussions with two organizations, Access Tusc and COAD. Access Tusc is a certified Pathways HUB and COAD is seeking certification. HUBs work with community-based organizations, agencies, and providers, to build a Pathways network. The COAD HUB will cover 5 of our counties, and the Access Tusc HUB currently covers two of our counties. BHRC leadership is in the process of determining the feasibility of contracting for or employing CHWs (utilizing our LSWs/RNs as supervisors) to serve vulnerable populations throughout our region under the two Pathways administrative HUBs covering our region.

Access Tusc is preparing to apply for POWER funding to assist in expanding their Pathways program and providing additional training for new Community Care coordinators.

- **Substance Use Disorder Initiative** | The team that had collaborated on last year's DDAA SUD Learning Collaborative has been awarded \$500,000 from ARC's INSPIRE initiative. ARC's Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE) initiative, which is a 3-year program, is providing funding for our team's efforts to further address the SUD (substance use disorder) crisis in Appalachia through assisting individuals in recovery in moving successfully toward securing employment; the focus is on support services that enable and support an individual's successful entry or reentry into the workforce, thereby creating an employment recovery ecosystem. The project includes Wood, Washington and Athens Counties, but will also benefit the residents of bordering counties.

The team has applied for EDA's Good Jobs Challenge grant for funding to assist folks in recovery to secure higher-paying, career-oriented jobs. There were over 500 proposals submitted for funding, so competition is formidable. We have set aside funding in the Challenge application to support increased capacity for the Mobility Manager and Washington/Morgan CAP in securing reliable transportation so persons can better access workforce training, and secure and maintain employment.

The team has also started working with two employers, Profusion in Washington County and Simonton Windows in Wood County. Efforts are underway to assist those companies in making changes to work culture and improving their job retention rates through hiring folks in recovery.

- **BHSS, Inc./Buckeye Fields Status** | As part of the closing process, the team had submitted a proposal for project-based assistance in response to an RFQ issued by the local housing authority, and the project has been awarded the assistance. We are in the process of seeking HUD approval for the project-based assistance. We plan to commence construction activities in June of this year. The date for closing on the project has been delayed due to the need to perform HUD Part 58 and Section 106 environmental reviews prior to closing on the project. A consultant has been hired to perform those reviews. It is estimated that a minimum of 60 days will be required for completion. A Subsidy Layering Review will also be completed simultaneously with the environmental reviews.

We continue to work with the HealthJay team, our provider for telehealth services for the Washington County Home and Buckeye Fields housing community. We are collecting data and monitoring the performance of the HealthJay tablets in the County Home setting in an effort to determine the best use of this product in our senior living facility. I will be presenting on the HealthJay product and the telehealth process at the LeadingAge Summit in Washington D.C. at the end of March.

CONTACT INFO: Rick Hindman, Assistant Executive Director | rhindman@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1029

CURRENT INITIATIVE/ NEWS

- The **Community Assessment** survey is available in print and at www.buckeyehills.org. Completion of this assessment supports the development of BHRC’s 4 year Area Plan. The Area Plan is due to ODA on May 1st. The Community Assessment will be active and open until April 1st. The required public hearing for comments regarding the **Area Plan will be held on April 29th at 10am** at BHRC’s offices.
- Two conference opportunities are available in 2022. If you have any interest in attending please contact Jenn Westfall (jwestfall@buckeyehills.org) or Jenny Simmons (jsimmons@buckeyehills.org).

April 11 th to the 14 th	American Society on Aging	New Orleans, Louisiana
July 10 th to the 13 th	USAgging Conference	Austin, Texas

Program & Service Update

- **Assessment Report FEB 2022**

Athens	13
Hocking	6
Meigs	7
Monroe	2
Morgan	0
Noble	4
Perry	6
Washington	16
TOTAL	54

- **The Regional Advisory Council** met on **March 25th**. The meeting was well attended by membership and residents. Discussion included agency updates, provider updates, area plan and assessment and surviving COVID-19. Membership is open and new members are welcome. The council was tasked with nominating a slate of officers for the next 2 years including President, Vice President and Secretary.

PASSPORT AND ASSISTED LIVING CASELOAD REGIONWIDE

- PASSPORT caseloads are decreasing. PASSPORT enrollment has been impacted by the death of enrolled individuals statewide. All 12 AAAs are working to gather and analyze data in regards to census changes, disenrollment and deaths. Current PASSPORT caseload is **748 individuals** and **59 individuals** on the Assisted Living Waiver.
- **In-person visits have resumed for initial assessments, annual reassessments and for health and safety reasons. Feedback from staff has been positive.**

CONTACT: Jennifer Westfall, Aging and Disability Director | jwestfall@buckeyehills.org, 740-376-1038
 Dawn Weber, Home Care Director | dweber@buckeyehills.org, 740-376-1041

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **HEAP Outreach** | Regular HEAP outreach continues for the winter months. New billboard messages are running in seven counties. Radio and television spots are airing on local stations throughout the region. Weekly social media posts will continue. Information is available on our website at buckeyehills.org/heap.
- **Agging Outreach** | Buckeye Hills is scheduled to be a sponsor or participate in outreach events throughout the spring. These include Senior Fairs, Health Fairs, virtual presentations, and speaking engagements with community groups. Outreach events for the month of March included:
 - Ohio Health UpBEAT Food for Thought (webinar on March 17) ,
 - Perry County Senior Expo (March 25 in New Lexington), and the
 - Washington County Veterans Services Commission's Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony (March 29 in Marietta).

Agging Director Jennifer Westfall was also a guest on the Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce's radio show on WMOA on March 28. Upcoming outreach events include:

- PEO luncheon (April 6 in Marietta),
- Hocking County Senior Expo (April 22 in Logan),
- O'Neill Center Senior Health Fair (April 25 in Marietta).

In addition, a number of new promo materials have been ordered to distribute throughout our communities. Staff are in the process of distributing materials to senior centers, doctors' offices and clinics throughout our region. If you know of a location that would like to have materials on our aging programs, or if there is an upcoming outreach event in your community we should attend, please contact Amanda Reeder at areeder@buckeyehills.org.

- **Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Outreach** | The Communications Team is working with Aging staff to promote enrollment in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Applications to the program opened on March 15. Enrollment is being promoted through press releases and social media. Applications are also available at the BHRC office, local senior centers, Job and Family Services offices, OSU Extension, and farmers' markets. The initial response has been much stronger than previous years. Information and the online application are available at <https://buckeyehills.org/sfmnp>.
- **Vaccine Hesitancy Grant** | The second in a series of direct mail pieces was distributed the third week of March. Subsequent mailers are scheduled for every other month: May, July, and September. These are being supplemented with local radio and additional promo items to be distributed to local health departments and senior centers.
- **Appalachian Ohio Return on Investment Report** | The Communications Director served as project manager for the annual Appalachian Ohio Return on Investment Report, working with the other LDDs (OVRDC, OMEGA, and Eastgate) to compile data and highlights from ARC funded projects in the state. Stonewall Group presented initial design concepts after the LDDs submitted their project information and content. The report was presented to congressional staff for our region's representatives during a luncheon at the March NADO-DDAA Washington Policy Conference. The report may be accessed on our website at <https://buckeyehills.org/our-impact>.
- **Annual Report** | The Communications team is working with BHRC staff to compile the 2021 Annual Report, which will be presented at the General Policy Council Annual Meeting in May.
- **State of the Region Conference Planning Committee** | The Communications Director served on the State of the Region Conference Planning Committee with partners from OU, OhioSE, the Appalachian Ohio LDDs. This year's theme is Models for Revitalization. The free conference is scheduled for May 10 at Ohio University's

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Baker University Center Ballroom. A virtual registration option is also available. Registration is now open at <https://sotr.ohio.edu>.

NEWS

- **Recent Press Releases & Notices**

- March 4: [NRAC Solicitation for Nominations](#)
- March 7: [Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain](#)
- March 9: [Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program](#)
- March 21: [New Broadband Expansion Projects Announced](#)

- **Notable Media Mentions**

- March 1: WOUB - [UpBEAT Food for Thought: Buckeye Hills Regional Council—How Can We Help You?](#)
- March 22: WTAP - [Buckeye Hills Regional Council brings back Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program](#)
- March 23: Perry County Tribune - [Senior Expo & Health Fair back for third year](#)

CONTACT INFO: Drew Tanner, Communications Director | dtanner@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1030

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Authorizing Resolution to Apply for An EDA Partnership Planning Assistance Grant** | BHRC has been invited to apply for a 3-year, \$210,000 investment from EDA for FY 2022 Partnership Planning Assistance. This three-year grant will provide \$70,000 per year to support the creation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), GIS, Economic Development project planning, and data analysis.

NEWS

Program & Service Updates

- **OneOhio Region 12 Update** | OneOhio ensures a settlement recognizing that every corner of the state has been hit hard by the Opioid crisis. After consultation with OMEGA and the involved counties, Buckeye Hills and OMEGA will convene the stakeholders 12 and assist to create the governance structure for Region 12, which includes: Coshocton, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry and Washington counties.
- **RISE Ohio Initiative Update** | Kate Perani, Special Projects Manager, has been busy kicking off technical assistance to our communities with Opportunity Zones. There will be two workshops on April 26 in Athens and April 27 in Caldwell to focus on the findings of Steadfast City and their work with identifying viable opportunities for Opportunity Zone development in the 12 zones in the Buckeye Hills Regional Council region.
- **Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Update** | Broadband Ohio recently announced the projects awarded funds through the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program process. BHRC is excited to see over \$81 million awarded to fiber to the premise projects in our eight counties.
- **ARC POWER 2022** | ARC issued a Request for Proposals for the POWER (Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization) Initiative. The request for proposals can be found [HERE](#).
- **Registration Now Open: 2022 Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference** | The annual Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference will take place May 10 at Ohio University's Baker University Center Ballroom. Conference sessions will include: collaboration models, developing vibrant communities, affordable housing, broadband, and tourism in rural Ohio. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

Staff Updates

- **Brandi Beaver** continues to utilize MyRecoveryLink to connect individuals in need with the necessary resources for the path to recovery.
- **Madelyn Brewer** has been working to spread the word about the project profiles for ARC funds to our communities and partners.
- **Ryan Collins** has been digging deep into the information shared about the awards made in the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program.
- **Carly Fitz** accepted the Development Specialist 1 position and will start coordinating the efforts for Buckeye Hills' work in OneOhio Region 12.
- **Julia Hinzman** recently agreed to join a committee that will look at sidewalks, bike trails to be amended in the county ordinance as part of the public repair through Washington County Job and Family Services.
- **Michelle Hyer** has been preparing for the 2022 Meigs County Community Development Block Grant Allocation program and held the first public hearing on March 24.
- **Kelly Islay** did an interview with Sharon Pearson for a social media post for new Mobility Managers, and attended an ODOT workshop on our application we will soon need to submit.

- **Jason Pyles** continued work with Building Bridges to Careers, both in their data collection and analysis efforts, and in the expansion of their Network initiative. He is also coordinating a site visit as part of the SuccessBound conference.
- **Jada Riley** has been working on the annual update to the CEDS and assisting with the completion of the EDA Planning Partnership grant.
- **Melissa Zoller** has been working on regional transportation improvement program (RTIP) plan, as well as the policy and scoring sheet.

CONTACT: Sam Miller, Development Director | smiller@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1028

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CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Vacancies** | Job postings and interviews are currently being conducted/scheduled for the following positions:
 - Planning Director
 - GIS Specialist
 - Housing Coordinator
- **World Social Work Day** | March 15 was World Social Work Day. Since the first social work class was offered in 1898 at Columbia University, social workers have led the way in serving people in need. Today, the nation's 720,000 social workers work to empower and elevate millions of people, including some of the most vulnerable in our society. At Buckeye Hills, we are lucky to have 11 social workers on our staff, each striving to improve the quality of life for the residents of Southeast Ohio!
 - Dawn Weber, LSW
 - Steffany VanFleet, LSW
 - Carolyn Ditchendorf, LSW
 - Jamie Stropkai, LSW
 - Sarah Swisher, LSW
 - Kara Wright, LSW
 - Kaelly Erb, LSW
 - Molly Fiedler, LSW
 - Scott Winemiller, LSW
 - Gerri VanNoy, SWA
 - Julia Hinzman, SWA

STAFF UPDATES

- **Alex Carpenter**, Program Development Coordinator resigned effective March 18, 2022
- **Stephanie Murphy**, RN has accepted the Care Management Coordinator position effective March 21, 2022
- **Sheila Weber** has accepted the Quality Improvement Assistant effective March 4, 2022
- **Doug Cowgill**, LSW has accepted the Assessor position effective April 25, 2022.

CONTACT INFO: Angie Lawrence, Human Resources Manager | alawrence@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1031



Administrative Budget

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Revenue

Federal Grants and Awards	\$3,796,714
State Grants and Awards	\$2,057,744
Local Cash	\$96,525
Contract Income	\$266,909
Total Revenue	\$6,217,892

Expenditures

Personnel	\$3,234,826
Fringe Benefits	\$1,620,331
Operating Expenses	\$1,332,535
Total Expenditures	\$6,217,892

Revenue Sources

Appalachian Regional Commission	\$209,000
Economic Development Administration	\$569,649
Fee for Service Contracts	\$266,909
Local Cash	\$96,526
Ohio Arts Council	\$2,750
Ohio Department of Aging	\$4,367,510
Ohio Department of Transportation	\$313,464
Ohio Development Services Agency	\$312,084
Ohio Public Works Commission	\$80,000



REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE

April 1, 2022

Software and Licenses

\$11,375.40

Community Brands – MIP Accounting Software

- Agency Fund Accounting Software

\$ 2,220.00

Move from on-site server to Cloud

- On-site server due to be replaced
- Staff working off-site will be able to connect easier

Funding Source: Indirect

\$13,595.40

Total Request.



**A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR AN EDA
PARTNERSHIP PLANNING ASSISTANCE GRANT**

Resolution #2022/04-01

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Administration – Chicago Regional Office has invited the Buckeye Hills Regional Council to apply for Partnership Planning Grant Assistance funds in the amount of \$210,000 (60%) as part of a three-year project with an estimated total project cost of \$350,000, and

WHEREAS, matching funds in the amount of \$140,000 are readily available and unencumbered to be committed to the project by Buckeye Hills, and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director of Buckeye Hills is designated and authorized to represent Buckeye Hills in all matters related to this application and subsequent project activity.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL:

1. The Executive Director through cooperation with internal staff, is authorized to complete, sign, and submit an application for funding to the Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$210,000 as part of the Partnership Planning Assistance Grant program.
2. Upon an offer of funding from the Economic Development Administration, the Executive Director is also hereby authorized to execute the grant agreement and any other documentation necessary to signify acceptance of an offer of award.

Passed on this first day of April, 2022.

Ron Moore, President

Lenny Eliason, Vice President

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT
PY 2021 APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FROM THE STATE OF OHIO
TO PARTNER WITH BUILDING BRIDGES TO CAREERS TO PROVIDE A SUMMER STEM
CAMP FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE APPALACHIAN OHIO REGION**

Resolution #2021/10-04

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills Regional Council serves as the designated Local Development District (LDD) for the eight counties of Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 167.03 sets forth the powers that any regional council of governments may exercise and Subsection (C) thereof provides that a council may perform such functions and duties that its constituent members may perform; and

WHEREAS, the Council has the authority to apply for, accept and administer grants from both state and federal sources; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Appalachia, Buckeye Hills Regional Council and Building Bridges to Careers have been partnering to provide a summer STEM Camp for middle and high school students in the 32 County Ohio Appalachian Region; and

WHEREAS, all students who applied but were not selected for the ARC Oak Ridge camp are invited to attend the camp.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the **Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Board** hereby accepts the grant agreement from the State of Ohio PY 2021 Appalachian Development Program for the period January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 to provide funding for the **Building Bridges to Careers Summer Stem Camp in the amount of \$37,000** (thirty-seven thousand dollars);

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Board hereby authorizes the Executive Director Misty Crosby to prepare, sign, and submit all documents required to execute all agreements necessary to receive funding and expend funds necessary to carry out the scope of work specified in the execute contract documents in accordance with procurement policies and procedures.

Executed at Marietta, Ohio this 1st day of April, 2022.

Kevin Ritter, Board Treasurer

Misty Crosby, Executive Director &
Board Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **State of the State Address** | During last week's State of the State Address, Governor DeWine declared, "Now is Appalachia's time," as he announced his commitment to "long-overdue, comprehensive investment" in our region. Buckeye Hills Regional Council welcomes this commitment to revitalizing and rebuilding Appalachian Ohio's economy. We're excited to continue working with the Governor, our legislators, agency partners, and you, our local leaders, to strengthen Appalachian Ohio's communities and move our region forward. Governor DeWine says his administration will "work together with community leaders to help the region plan and implement improvements that reflect the vision of local communities, investing in things, such as downtown redevelopment, further expansion of broadband coverage, workforce development, student wellness in schools, and fighting the on-going battle against addiction."

As we prepare to meet with the DeWine administration and our region's legislators in the coming weeks, I'd like to invite BHRC members to share with me your reactions to the Governor's speech, how you would like BHRC to advocate on your behalf, and the priorities you feel would have the most visible, long-lasting impact in your community. If you aren't able to participate in the discussion at our Executive Committee meeting, please email me at mcrosby@buckeyehills.org or call me at 740-350-6406.

- **Dominion Energy Critical Needs Grants Open** | For the seventh consecutive year, the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation has pledged \$1 million to help meet urgent human needs such as housing and shelter, access to medicine and medical services, and food security. Now through April 29, 2022, at 5 p.m. eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in Monroe, Noble, and Washington counties may apply for grants of up to \$25,000 each to meet critical needs in their communities. Learn more at the following link: <https://www.dominionenergy.com/our-company/customers-and-community/charitable-foundation/grants-supporting-critical-community-needs>

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- **Succession Planning: Executive Director Search** | On March 24, the Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Search Committee met with SERDI Director Jim Youngquist to review the member survey responses and develop the job description and scoring criteria for the search for our next Executive Director. The position is now listed on our website at buckeyehills.org/careers and is being distributed to our state and national associations and partners. Applications are due April 30. We will continue to keep you informed as the process progresses.
- **NADO-DDAA Washington Conference** | On March 13-16 members of our development staff and board attended the National Association of Development Organizations' Washington Policy Conference and the Development District Association of Appalachia's Annual Conference. Agenda topics included broadband, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, eligible uses and compliance for ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, ensuring equity and inclusion in our economic and community development efforts. Our staff board, *Serving Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington Counties in Southeast Ohio.*
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and partners were presenters and panelists in several of the sessions. On March 15, we met with legislative staff from the offices of Senator Portman, Representative Johnson, and Representative Carey, as well as other members of Appalachian Ohio's congressional delegation, to present our annual report of the impact of investments in our region by the Appalachian Regional Commission and Governor's Office of Appalachia and advocate for increased funding for the ARC, EDA, and the infrastructure and development needs of our communities. A copy of the report may be found on our website at buckeyehills.org/our-impact. Afterward, we joined our peers from OMEGA, OVRDC, and Eastgate to present Senator Rob Portman with the DDAA Congressional Leadership Award for his. Earlier in the conference, Governor's Office of Appalachia Director John Carey was recognized with the presentation of the John Whisman Vision Award. As NADO President, I was honored to be able to represent our region among our peers from across the country.

- **Ohio University Ridges Development Advisors** | On April 7th, BHRC and Community Building Partners – serving as Development Advisors to Ohio University for The Ridges, met with President Sherman to update him on our efforts and our vision for the creation of a New Community Authority to guide the redevelopment of the Ridges for the benefit of the University, the Community and the Region. Later in the month we met with members of The Ridges Advisory Committee to discuss our efforts to date and the meeting was well received. The ARC Grant Application is at the final review point and is awaiting signature of the Federal Co-Chair. Upon receipt and execution of a grant agreement, we will issue an RFP to secure services that will serve to financially validate the model we have proposed.

STATE UPDATES

- **Broadband Expansion Grants in the Buckeye Hills Region** | Our staff has compiled the list of providers (included in the board meeting packet) in our region who have received awards totaling \$81.6 million from the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program. The first page lists the providers that have been awarded grant funding to serve the households in the counties indicated. In some cases, household numbers may be lower than the provider's original application, due to the grant program's challenge process. The second page lists service commitments from the challengers to other grant applicants. Coverage maps will be provided to BHRC members once the BroadbandOhio address data is processed. More information about the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant program, awards, and copies of the applicant proposals are available on the BroadbandOhio website, broadband.ohio.gov. The 33 awards announced on March 18 will directly fund projects to bring affordable, high-speed internet access to more than 43,000 Ohio homes statewide. As part of the grant challenge process, several providers also committed to independently fund 71 other broadband expansion projects serving approximately 52,000 households and impacting 31 additional counties. In total, BroadbandOhio estimates that around 230,000 residents will have improved broadband availability thanks to the 104 new expansion projects. The average construction time for the new broadband projects is two years, with some areas expected to receive improved internet access in only 12 months.
- **DeWine Authorizes Relief Funding for Assisted Living, HCBS Providers** | Home- and community-based providers of long-term care services and supports are eligible for relief funds to help them continue to respond and adapt to COVID-19 and ensure quality care for older Ohioans. After federal approval of the state's American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) home- and community-based services plan, Governor DeWine issued an executive order authorizing emergency rules to be filed to provide relief payments to PASSPORT and assisted living providers totaling \$59 million.
- **Office of Tourism Releases Appalachian Ohio Video** | In collaboration with the Governor's Office of Appalachia, Ohio's Office of Tourism recently released a new promotional video highlighting Appalachian

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Ohio that is being used in upcoming promotions and on *Ohio. Find it Here.* social media. The video highlights several sites and destinations in the Buckeye Hills region! You can view the video at this link:

youtu.be/u4jE8f4p8pw

- **Lead Service Line Inventory and Mapping Grant** | H2Ohio recently announced their grant opportunities for the public water systems to identify, inventory, and map lead service lines. Eligible activities include the identification, mapping, and integration of service line information into asset management programs for replacement or planning purposes. Eligibility of activities will be project-specific and determined on a case-by-case basis by Ohio EPA. Construction activities are not eligible under this grant. Additional information can also be found at epa.ohio.gov
- **New Statewide Mapping Resource Identifies Broadband Gaps** | BroadbandOhio has published a new mapping resource tool on its website, broadband.ohio.gov, that more accurately shows how many of the state's households are connected to high-speed internet, providing a clearer, more detailed picture of Ohio's broadband availability gaps. The maps use on-the-ground Ookla Speedtest Intelligence® records from a 15-month period to measure four different internet speeds: under 10 Mbps; under 25 Mbps; under 50 Mbps; and 50-100 plus Mbps. Whereas the FCC Fixed Broadband Deployment Data from FCC 477 maps uses data that is reported through internet service providers, this new map uses real-world, on-the-ground speed test information from actual internet customers to determine where there are gaps in coverage. The new maps will be used as a supplement to other currently available data, helping to provide more information to BroadbandOhio; Ohio citizens; local, state, and federal officials; internet service providers; and other stakeholders. The county broadband profile maps created for each of the 88 counties will be helpful as local governments consider the utilization of different funding resources and opportunities for public-private partnerships to help close connectivity gaps in their region. A better representation of Ohio's broadband landscape also will help when applying for state and federal grants.

FEDERAL UPDATES

- **Senate and House Pass \$1.5 Trillion Omnibus Spending Bill** | On March 10, the Senate passed an omnibus spending bill for the remainder of FY22. Having passed in the House, the bill signed by President Biden on March 15. The federal government had previously been operating under FY21 funding levels as dictated by a series of short-term continuing resolutions for about five months. The omnibus spending bill for FY22 will increase funding for many agencies and programs across the federal government. Among many other provisions, the FY22 omnibus includes \$373.5 million for the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (an increase of \$27.5 million above FY21 levels) including \$34.5 million for Partnership Planning grants (a \$1 million increase above FY21 levels)
- **Updated ARPA Local Fiscal Relief Fund Reporting Guidance** | Treasury released updated Compliance and Reporting Guidance (Reporting Guidance) for the State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund program. This Reporting Guidance includes updates to reporting requirements to reflect the final rule that Treasury adopted on January 6, 2022. These updates take effect for the next Project and Expenditure Report that all state, local, and Tribal governments need to submit by April 30, 2022. To access the updated Reporting Guidance and learn more about the SLFRF program, visit the following link: home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds/recipient-compliance-and-reporting-responsibilities

AFFILIATE PARTNERS MEETINGS/EVENTS/OTHER

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- **Voinovich School/Mayors Partnership for Progress** | I continue to meet regularly leadership of the Voinovich School and the Mayors Partnership for Progress to brainstorm opportunities for additional collaboration between our organizations, as well as strengthen our collective advocacy efforts.
- **National Association of Development Organizations** | I attended the NADO/DDAA Washington Conference and carried out my duties as President of the Association. Several Board members and Staff attended as well. During the event, we traveled into DC to present the Appalachian Ohio Return on Investment to our congressional delegation and their staff. The luncheon was attended by all four LDDs, as well as a representative from each of our Congressional Members (less Senator Brown's office), as well as by Congressman Balderson's office, who represented parts of Appalachia at the state-house and remains interested in the region and our efforts to reach parity with the rest of the state and the country.
- **Ohio Association of Regional Councils** | I continue to engage with the OARC Policy Committee and the Broadband Working Group to discuss legislation of importance and opportunities on the horizon for regional councils and our members across the state.
- **Appalachian Partnership, Inc, OhioSE, Appalachian Growth Capital** | I attended the API/OhioSE/AGC combined annual meeting and listened to the Governor and Director Mihalik speak to the partnerships and momentum the region has demonstrated and their verbal support of continuing to listen and engage to help move the region forward.
- **Buckeye Hills Support Services** | I continue to engage as needed in support of the construction of Buckeye Fields Senior Apartments – a 64-unit low-income senior housing project being undertaken by the non-profit BHSS in partnership with Community Building Partners. Early March, I organized a meeting between BHSS, Community Building Partners, and the Washington County Career Center Construction & Turf Management class to develop a partnership to provide plantings and planters at the Buckeye Fields Site.
- **Ohio University Board of Trustees** | I attended my first luncheon with the Mayors representing the Ohio University Regional Campuses and President Hugh Sherman. The Mayors of Athens, Chillicothe, Ironton, and Lancaster were present, as well as the Dean of the Chillicothe campus. I provided input on downtown redevelopment, housing, infrastructure, workforce development and partnerships.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS:

- **SAVE THE DATE: GENERAL POLICY COUNCIL – ANNUAL MEETING** | The Buckeye Hills General Policy Council full membership will meet **Friday, May 6, 2022**.
- **Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference** | The Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference will gather public officials, economic development experts, and business and organizational leaders on **May 10th** in the Baker University Center Ballroom on the Ohio University Campus in Athens. The event brings public officials, economic development experts, business and organizational leaders and others to Ohio University each year to discuss different issues related to economic growth in the Appalachian Ohio region. Learn more and register at sotr.ohio.edu.

CONTACT INFO: Misty Crosby, Executive Director | mcrosby@buckeyehills.org | 740-376-1034

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