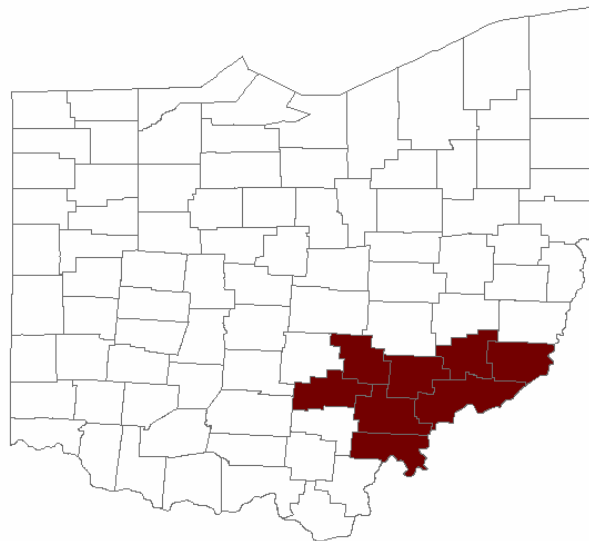




Buckeye Hills - Hocking Valley
Regional Development District

2010

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



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

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

2010



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

Honorable Michael Mullen
Washington County

Honorable Lenny Eliason
Athens County

Donald Vaughan
Private Sector – Meigs County

Honorable Sandy Ogle
Hocking County

John Curtis
Private Sector - Monroe County

Honorable Fred Hawk
Hocking County

Honorable Mick Davenport
Meigs County

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Paul Wiehl
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Hocking:

Honorable Sandy Ogle
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Honorable Cora Marshall
Sharon Hoffee
Dennis Blauser
Mike Lorentz
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 a full revision, the first since 2005. This document 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
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P.O. Box 520, Reno, Ohio 45773

Telephone: 740.374.9436
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MISSION

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

2010 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

Lynn Anastas

Representative

Vice President - Community Relations
O'Bleness Memorial Hospital

Private Business

Mark Amon

Representative

CEO
Athens Computers & Multimedia Enterprises Limited

Private Business

David M. Berchowitz

Representative

Director
Global Cooling

Higher Education

Jerry Hutton

Representative

Dean of Alternative Energy and Transportation
Technologies - Hocking College

Private Business

Paul Reed

Representative

President
Farmers Bank

Private Business

C. Allen Love

Representative

Magnum Magnetics

Private Business

Mark Furman

Representative

Plant Manager
International Converter

Chamber of Commerce Representative	<u>Charlotte Keim</u> President Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce
Private Business Representative	<u>Curt Allison</u> Division Sales Manager Pepsi Bottling Company
Private Business Representative	<u>Daniel Allwine</u> President Austral Engineering & Software
Public Official	<u>Perry Varnadoe</u> Economic Development Director Meigs County Office of Economic Development
Public Official	<u>Mike Jacoby</u> Director Southeastern Ohio Port Authority
Public Official	<u>Shannon Wells</u> Director Morgan County Commissioners Development Office
Public Official	<u>Mike Lloyd</u> Economic Development Director/ Extension Agent Ohio State University Extension
Public Official	<u>Bill Rinehart</u> Economic Development Director Logan-Hocking Chamber of Commerce
Buckeye Hills Representative	<u>Bret Allphin</u> GIS Manager



CHAPTER ONE - 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 58 employees (57 full time, 1 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	16
Melissa Zoller	Development Director	9
Michelle Hyer	Development Specialist	12
Bret Allphin	GIS Manager	9
Charmel Wesel	Development Specialist	3
Tina Meunier	RLF Coordinator	5
Gwynn Clifford	Communications Director	3
Jenny Myers	Program Assistant	6

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 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 three-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 April 30th.



CHAPTER TWO – 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 2009, 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) assists state and federal officials in making effective area investment decisions. As a requirement of the Renewable Planning Investment Award, Buckeye Hills maintains and annually updates a CEDS Document that is consistent with all applicable EDA requirements and regulations found at 13 CFR 303.6, and 13 CFR 303.7.

The planning process for completion of this document includes meeting with an appointed Advisory Committee, analyzing the regional economy, selecting economic development goals, and outlining a plan of action for working toward those goals. The Buckeye Hills CEDS document was last revised in September 2005. Annual reports based on the most recent revised CEDS have been submitted to, and approved annually by, the Chicago Regional Office of EDA.

The basic work elements of the 2010 CEDS revision were as follows:

- The staff held two planning sessions during the spring of 2010 with the CEDS Advisory Committee. The purpose of these meetings was to craft and formulate the new vision, goals, and action plan for economic development in the Buckeye Hills region.
- Included in this analysis were environmental changes that might affect the goals and vision outlined in the CEDS document. Buckeye Hills staff spent considerable time and effort collecting recent changes in demographic and economic information for the district. This data was compiled and is presented in detail in Chapter III of the 2010 CEDS revision.
- Local officials and communities in the region were asked to submit potential EDA projects for inclusion in the CEDS document. An updated project list has been compiled and included in this revised CEDS document.

This completed CEDS report will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration by April 30, 2010.

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 labor force in the district. Buckeye Hills currently has a notification process in place. Between July 1, 2007

and April 30, 2010, Buckeye Hills received notification of six employment events that would prompt the attention of the EDR. The information was sent to the EDR by email and/or fax, and each notification generally contained information about multiple events. Overall, notifications sent to the EDR during this period indicated a potential gain of 350 jobs and the loss of 1,610 jobs across the district.

III. Positive Media References

As a requirement of the Renewable Planning Investment Award, Buckeye Hills is continuously monitoring local media outlets for positive references to the Economic Development Administration. During the specified period, Buckeye Hills was unaware of any major references to the EDA in the local media. There continues to be news interest surrounding a 2006 EDA investment that garnered significant local and regional headlines. The public works grant awarded to Hocking College for the construction of the Hocking College Energy Institute, located outside of Logan, Ohio continues to be a major success for the Buckeye Hills region. This facility hosted a grand opening event in October 2009. 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 2008-2009 Buckeye Hills participated in a total of 108 projects, with a total project cost of \$67,635,943. Administrative cost totals for these projects were \$622,392. For every one dollar in administration funds, Buckeye Hills leveraged \$108.67 in project funds. From these projects 1,325 jobs were created or retained.

Housing Program

During fiscal year 2009, Buckeye Hills continued to operate a housing modification for handicap accessibility and minor home repair program. This program focuses on combating issues such as handicap access, 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 nursing homes or assisted 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 address handicap accessibility needs and to perform minor home repair to 39 homes owned by senior citizens in our eight county region.

Other Planning Activities

Regional Prioritization/ 2009 ARRA

During 2009, 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. Adoption of this type of process would 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 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 2009 ARRA (stimulus) funds exemplified the continuing need for this type of project prioritization in the Buckeye Hills region.

State Route 32/ U.S. 50 Corridor Study

Buckeye Hills contributed data research, analysis, and mapping assistance to the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission for completion of the SR 32/ US 50 Corridor Study. During 2007, 2008, and 2009, 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 corridor itself, as well as a 5 mile buffer on all sides. This project was organized and led by the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, with financial support from the Appalachian Regional Commission. The final project report was submitted to the Appalachian Regional Commission prior to the December 31, 2009 deadline.

Wood Washington Wirt Interstate Planning Commission

Buckeye Hills continues 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.

Firstohio.com Regional Advisory Board

Staff from Buckeye Hills continues to serve on the Firstohio.com Regional Advisory Board, which 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. This website was designed to be a singular source of information for parties seeking business, residential, or tourism based information

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 73 local development districts encompassing the 420 Appalachian counties in the United States. During 2009, Executive Director Misty Casto was appointed as head of the DDAA training committee. In this role Ms. Casto and Buckeye Hills have been very active in shaping and creating new programming for the DDAA, focusing on bringing LDDs closer together in a working partnership, and demonstrating the value LDDs add to the regions they serve. Buckeye Hills also continues to play a lead role in planning the DDAA GIS Training Conference. The conference was most recently held in Huntsville Alabama on March 31 and April 1, 2009, and is scheduled to be held April 28 and 29, 2010 in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

Connect Ohio

During the past year Buckeye Hills staff has been actively participating in the project development and planning 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. Buckeye Hills was closely involved with the Washington County contingent of individuals working with Connect Ohio. The purpose of this group was to develop a potential project(s) that could be submitted for the second round of stimulus funding being made available from NTIA and BTOP. This group identified areas of need, determined appropriate levels of service needed in these areas, and created a list and map of aerial assets (radio towers, water towers) that could be made available to a wireless broadband provider in order to expedite the deployment of broadband to un-served and underserved areas.

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 22 projects from July 1, 2009 to March 30, 2010.

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. The goal of this program was to review and redefine all Census geographies based on updated household and population thresholds. This review was completed for all eight member counties and the data was submitted in spring 2009.

Buckeye Hills also assisted several member communities as they validated their current corporate boundaries as part of the BVP (boundary validation program). This activity involved taking the printed and digital maps received from the Census Bureau and examining the boundary of the municipality in question for accuracy. Any discrepancies or errors were reported to the Census Bureau for correction before the collection of the 2010 Census.

Buckeye Hills also provided support during the survey and collection phase of the 2010 Census, by providing office and meeting space for temporary Census workers. The office of Buckeye Hills was designated and used as an official Census Questionnaire Center during spring 2010.

V. Water & Sewer

West Malta Water Project

Buckeye Hills continued to assist 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. Construction on this project began in 2007. This project will allow for future expansion with the construction of a new storage tank and booster station. The estimated total cost of the project is \$4,150,500. As of this report construction on the main line is complete, and work is continuing on the installation of low to moderate income taps. All work on this project is expected to be complete by July 2010.

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 extends water lines to serve safe water to approximately 36 residents along Ohio State Route 285 between the villages of Caldwell and Sarahsville. The project provided for the installation of approximately 4.5 miles of water line and services approximately 36 homes. Construction on this project started in July 2009 and was completed in January 2010. The total cost of this project was approximately \$628,000.

Noble County Sanitary Sewer Collection

Buckeye Hills assisted the Noble County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the South Acres, Maple Heights, Florence and Slaters areas of Noble County. The project will provide approximately 266 homes with improved sanitary sewer services. The project involves the installation of approximately 40,935 linear feet of sanitary sewer line. The cost of this project is estimated at \$6,700,000. Contracts have been awarded and construction is currently underway.

Syracuse Racine Sewer District

Buckeye Hills assisted the Syracuse Racine Sewer District (Meigs County) in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding. These monies are financing a project to extend sewer services to approximately 45 households, and to facilitate the rehabilitation of the existing wastewater collection and

treatment system. The project involves the installation sanitary sewer line, the rehabilitation of pump stations and rehab/replacement of manholes. The cost of this project is estimated at \$3,944,000. As of February 2010, The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funding for the project. Environmental Review work has been completed, with bid packets released in February 2010. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2010.

Village of Racine

Buckeye Hills assisted the Village of Racine (Meigs County) in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding. These monies are financing a project to replace waterlines which were posing a potential health hazard. The project involves the replacement of 9,860 linear feet of waterline, serving 95 households. The estimated cost of the project is \$844,820. As of February 2010 The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funds for the Village of Racine Project. Environmental Review work has been completed; bids have been submitted and are currently under review. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2010.

Washington County Riverview Sewer Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Washington County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Riverview area of Washington County. These monies are financing a project to extend sewer lines to approximately 121 households. The project involves the installation of approximately 7,738 linear feet of sewer lines and the establishment of sanitary sewer services in this area. The cost of this project is estimated at \$402,700. The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funds for the Washington County Riverview Sewer Project. Environmental Review work has been completed and bids for this project have been accepted. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2010.

Village of McConnelsville

Buckeye Hills assisted the Village of McConnelsville in administering ARC funding. These monies are financing a project to reline sanitary sewer lines in the Village of McConnelsville. The project will install 1,500 linear feet of sewer lines. The cost of this project is estimated at \$239,100. The project involves the installation 1,500 feet of sewer line and will service approximately 4 businesses. The environmental review process is currently underway. Once the environmental review activities are completed the bidding process will begin. Construction on this project is not expected to begin until summer 2010.

VI. CDBG Formula Allocation

Washington County Formula - 2008

Buckeye Hills staff served in the role of administrator for the FY'2008 Washington County CDBG Formula Program. As the designated program administrator, Buckeye Hills staff ensured that four Washington County projects, and one City of Belpre project complied with all funding requirements, as well as compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations. Buckeye Hills participated in the bidding process for contracts, attended all pre-construction conferences, completed status reports, and consulted with independent auditor at time of final audit. As program administrator, Buckeye Hills agreed to reply to all funding agency inquiries as to the status of activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners as part of the FY' 2008 Formula Program.

As of this report, the FY' 2008 Washington County Formula projects are in the final stages of completion. The total project costs for these activities will be approximately \$451,911.

Washington County Formula - 2009

Buckeye Hills staff served in the role of administrator for the FY'2008 Washington County CDBG Formula Program. As the designated program administrator, Buckeye Hills staff ensured that four Washington County projects, and one City of Belpre project complied with all funding requirements, as well as compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations. Buckeye Hills participated in the bidding process for contracts, attended all pre-construction conferences, completed status reports, and consulted with independent auditor at time of final audit. As program administrator, Buckeye Hills agreed to reply to all funding agency inquiries as to the status of activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners as part of the FY' 2008 Formula Program.

As of this report, these projects are underway. Funding has been secured in the amount of \$175,000, to be used for the following project activities: planning project; sidewalk improvements, public service; community center; fire protection facilities & equipment; and fair housing activities for the county. The total project costs for these activities will be approximately \$269,659.

VII. State Capital Improvement/Local Transportation Improvement Program

The Buckeye Hills Community Development continued to serve as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes the entire Buckeye Hills service region plus the counties of Belmont and Muskingum. The SCIP/LTIP program provides funding to counties, townships, villages, and water and sewer districts to enable repairs and upgrades such as, road replacement,

bridge work, culvert work, water supply improvements, wastewater improvements, and improvements to solid waste and storm water systems. The staff provided technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP application. The staff will continue to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, such as; organizing meetings, distributing and posting meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking submitted applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various other SCIP/LTIP programs.

As of this report, Buckeye Hills staff assisted the District 18 Integrating Committee in rating applications and general activity coordination. The District 18 Integrating Committee has submitted 37 SCIP/LTIP applications and 10 Small Government applications from Round 23 to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding. The total project cost for the 47 selected applications will be approximately \$25,909,629.

Job Ready Sites

As the Liaison for District 18 of the Ohio Public Works Commission, Buckeye Hills also administered 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 continue to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, such as; organizing meetings, distributing and posting meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking submitted applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding or consideration for funding under the JRS program.

As of this report, no applications have been received for this program.

VIII. Conservation Activities

Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program

The Buckeye Hills Community Development Staff served as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes the entire Buckeye Hills service region, plus the counties of Belmont and Muskingum. The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is 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 to further conservation

and preservation efforts in the region. This funding is primarily used for the purchase of open space properties and the related costs of making them accessible to the public. This program also provides monies used for projects enhancing the protection of stream corridors, providing and protecting wildlife habitat, and the reduction of erosion. The staff will continue to provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of projects funded through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. The staff will continue to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) communities, such as; organizing meetings, distributing and posting meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking submitted applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the Clean Ohio Program.

As of this report, Buckeye Hills staff assisted the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council in rating applications and coordinating administrative activities. The Committee has submitted 8 Clean Ohio applications from Round 5 to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding. The total project cost for those 8 applications will be approximately \$1,721,615.

IX. Brownfield Revitalization

Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program

The Buckeye Hills Community Development served as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes the entire Buckeye Hills service region, plus the counties of Belmont and Muskingum. The Clean Ohio- Revitalization program provides funding to local governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit entities to enable the acquisition and clean up a Brownfield area or property. Associated activities may include demolition of existing buildings, infrastructure upgrades and other improvements needed to redevelop the property. The staff will continue to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, such as; organizing meetings, distributing and posting meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking submitted applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding.

As of this report, District 18 has submitted one application to Ohio Department of Development on behalf of the Hocking County Commissioners. The application was accepted and a grant agreement will be awarded by the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) for the remediation of the selected site.

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 January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009, Buckeye Hills received a combined total of 123 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 – Buckeye Hills continued its ongoing relationship with the City of Marietta during this report period. The Buckeye Hills GIS Manager provided GIS support to the Engineering Department as part of a yearly negotiated contract. As a part of this contract the following activities were completed, or are still under way. The final version of the City of Marietta's zoning data was completed and released for use by city officials. Regular updates to the corporation limit and corresponding zoning were completed. Two GPS data collection projects continued during the report period. Marietta's water distribution and wastewater departments continued collecting spatial data to complete mapping of their respective systems. Work on these projects is anticipated to continue through 2011 and possibly beyond.

Washington County – Buckeye Hills GIS Manager continued to serve as the de-facto GIS staff for Washington County during the reporting period. Buckeye Hills received a series of small contracts with various departments of Washington County government to provide GIS support services. The activities completed as a result of these contracts included; routine updates of digital tax map files, maintenance and update of local land use data for the Washington County Auditor's office, maintenance of GIS data for the Washington County Board of Elections, maintenance of emergency service response data utilized by parties responsible for dispatching emergency service personnel, and coordination of county-wide monthly GIS user group activities.

Meigs County – Buckeye Hills staff completed a GPS collection project in the Village of Syracuse to collect all water meters, water valves, and fire hydrants within the village. Staff also digitized water main distribution lines for this local system.

This data was collected and will be used to achieve greater efficiency for the local water system staff as they complete day to day tasks related to the effective operation of this local water system.

Buckeye Hills staff also completed a small fire hydrant data collection project in the Village of Stockport during the summer of 2009. The Mayor of Stockport approached Buckeye Hills about this project, and staff was able to collect this data and turn around a finished map to the administration in a very short time period.

Buckeye Hills also continued work on collecting and updating public water information for Meigs County to update a map created in the past year at the behest of local elected officials and water system managers.

These are just a few highlights of the projects Buckeye Hills has participated in during the specified period, and not an exhaustive list. Buckeye Hills has also worked with local soil and water districts, convention and visitor bureaus, local educational groups, port authorities, economic development groups, private citizens, and students.

GIS Enhancement Project

Buckeye Hills will use grant funding received in spring 2009 from EDA and the Governors Office of Appalachia for a GIS enhancement project that will expand Buckeye Hills' current program capabilities. This funding enabled Buckeye Hills to purchase ArcGIS Server, a web server, and an additional Trimble sub-foot accuracy GPS data collection unit. Buckeye Hills will use these items to make many of the GIS maps and data sets that have been collected over the years accessible to interested parties via the internet. Buckeye Hills has also expanded the GPS asset management program, allowing communities to receive training on the proper use of the GPS data collection unit. Once this training is complete 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. Aside from assisting local communities with asset management, Buckeye Hills intends to host economic development data,

Brownfield data, project data, and other relevant information that can be effectively communicated through the use of customized maps hosted in the internet.

As of this report, all associated hardware has been purchased and two data collection projects have been completed as a result. Two more are planned for the spring and summer of 2010. This local community data will be hosted in secured online map viewers, which will be available at <http://www.bhgis.org>. The website is currently in development and is anticipated to be available by April 2010. All activities related to this program will be fully implemented by September 30, 2010.

Buckeye Hills continues to actively advocate for the increased use of mapping technologies and spatial data to local governments, and other local parties throughout the region. To this end, Buckeye Hills continues to organize GIS activities across the district including user group meetings, project demonstrations, and presentations to local universities and interested parties. To further these goals Buckeye Hills staff also participates on GIS related curriculum committees, URISA, OGRIP, and other similar GIS bodies with the common focus of furthering the adoption of GIS throughout the region.

XI. Data Center

The Buckeye Hills Data Center continues to provide public and private entities with important 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 from July 1, 2009 to March 30, 2010.

Data Requests

Organization	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Government	109	82.0%
Business	12	9.0%
Comm. Org/ Non. Prof.	7	5.3%
Acad./ Research	3	2.3%
Priv. Citizen	2	1.5%
Media	0	0.0%
Totals	133	

Type of Request	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Other GIS Map	63	47.4%
Misc.	27	20.3%
Community Prof.	18	13.5%
Income	9	6.8%
Census Maps	7	5.3%
Population	5	3.8%
Labor Force	4	3.0%
Totals	133	

Government organizations continue to be the most frequent type of organization requesting data, composing over 80% of all requests received.

“Other GIS Maps” which includes custom GIS maps and related spatial data is the most frequently requested type of information from the BH Data Center, composing nearly half of all requests received.

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 2009, the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund closed 3 loans totaling \$620,505. These funds leveraged an additional \$1,346,620 in other

public and private funding. These loan projects created or retained a total of 40 private sector jobs.

XIII. Regional Promotion

Website

The Buckeye Hills staff continued to promote the economic development opportunities and programmatic activities throughout the region between July 1, 2009, and March 30, 2010. A key tool used by the Buckeye Hills staff to convey this information is the agency website hosted at www.buckeyehills.org.

Result: 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. A problem with our web hosting company prevented us from retrieving statistics for [buckeyehills.org](http://www.buckeyehills.org) between July 1, 2009 and March 30, 2010. This problem has been solved, and statistics for [buckeyehills.org](http://www.buckeyehills.org) are once again compiling normally.

Regional Economic Development Study

Beginning in fiscal year 2008, and continuing through 2009, Buckeye Hills has been leading an effort to find funding for 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. AEP contributed \$10,000 to this effort in July 2008. Since this award of funding no other sources of funds have been identified, and progress on this project has come to a near standstill.

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 13 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.

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 800 recipients.

Below are some results from the media relations efforts of Buckeye Hills during 2009:

The Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District Office of Communications prepared press releases or media advisories on nearly 65 topics or events in 2009.

A total of 1,326 column inches of print news space was secured. With regional averages of \$12 for paid space, this equates to \$15,876 in free media placement.

In addition, the media coverage for the AAA8 Choices Expo that included an estimated value of over \$10,000 in ads in *The Marietta Times* and *The Senior News* publications as well as free air time for PSAs on WTAP Fox 28 and (\$7,600 in on-air time for Results Radio station PSAs and the live remote broadcast).

In addition, 11 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 are now referring to Buckeye Hills as an “expert source.”

Buckeye Hills has continued to work with the district’s Chambers of Commerce and educational entities to build relationships and garner support. Through membership and increased participation in chamber events and promotion of district programs through chamber newsletters, the organization is working to reach out further to small business and chamber memberships.

Other Promotional Activities

Government Relations & Advocacy

The Communications Department has also provided proactive legislative advocacy, and bolstered grassroots efforts to disseminate information about local issues impacting residents.

In 2009, Buckeye Hills 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 2000 in the district and in Washington, D.C.

Buckeye Hills hosted 2008 recap meetings with each Board of County Commissioners providing county-specific annual reports and open dialogue on the county's continued economic development and planning needs.

In addition, Buckeye Hills has been asked to participate at both the state and federal levels to be "the voice of rural Ohio" in meetings related to transportation planning, housing and agriculture.

Staff and regional representatives joined U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown in sharing the rural perspective with Dallas Tonsager, USDA Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development during his visit to Ohio. Buckeye Hills also formed a Broadband committee and provided input from the region to the Federal Broadband grant application.

Buckeye Hills was pleased to host Ohio Governor Ted Strickland and Congressman Charlie Wilson (D-OH 6) and many from across the region at its office in August 2009 to announce Ohio's more than \$12.19 million of Recovery Act funding for water and sanitary sewer projects.

Buckeye Hills also developed an Area Agency on Aging Region 8 Legislative Partnership Award to recognize legislators who support serving the region's elderly and their caregivers.

Appalachian Advocacy

In January, Buckeye Hills partnered with two of Ohio's other LDDs to travel to DC as an Appalachian contingency. The executive directors from all three organizations met with Ohio's Senate and Congressional representatives to discuss the region and its issues.

In March, the LDDs hosted an Ohio Legislative awareness event in Columbus working to educate all of Ohio's legislators on the Appalachian region, its strengths and its needs. Throughout the year, when necessary, advocacy letters were sent on behalf of Ohio's LDDs to show strength and solidarity of the region's leadership.

State & National Association Activities

The staff of Buckeye Hills remained active on local, state, and federal advisory committees and other groups sponsored by and made up of our partners from all disciplines. These activities allow Buckeye Hills and its staff to stay abreast of current development issues and ideas as they work to better serve the eight-county region.

Buckeye Hills continues its membership in The National Assoc. of Development Organizations (NADO) and The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), Development District Assoc. of Appalachia (DDAA), as well as The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA), The Ohio Assoc. of Regional Councils (OARC) and The Ohio Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging (OAAAA) and The National Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) and The Eastern Ohio Development Alliance, where Misty Casto, Executive Director, participated as a Board member and leader with the Legislative Affairs Committee and staff members attended its annual meetings. This listing is not exhaustive, as Buckeye Hills Staff members actively participate on a variety of association leadership boards and committees.

Ohio Department of Development & Governor's Office of Appalachia

Buckeye Hills helped to lead and facilitate a "Region 11 Familiarization Tour" for key staff at The Ohio Dept. of Development. We saw this as an opportunity to put our best foot forward and showcase the comprehensive economic development programs across our district. The goal was to market the region to the people who are 'in charge' of recruiting companies into Ohio and to find ways to partner with them on future projects.

Buckeye Hills provided input for enhancements to the Appalachian portion of the ODOD web site.

Buckeye Hills also partnered with The Governor’s Office of Appalachia to formalize a process to host grant presentation events to broaden organized government, community and media participation.

Area Agency on Aging District 8 (AAA8) – Rural Health Care Economic Development

Buckeye Hills and the Area Agency on Aging Region 8 worked with the region’s aging service providers to formalize a cooperative of rural providers. In June 2009, the Home Healthcare Provider Coop filed articles of incorporation with the Ohio Secretary of State and named an interim board and officers.

This is a wonderful example of many groups coming together to provide a higher level of care for the greater region. This has been many months in the creation and we are already beginning to see synergies and new opportunities open because of the structured cooperative. The co-op team was honored by The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging with its 2009 Outstanding AAA/Provider Partnership of the Year Award.

The AAA8 network of providers delivered nearly \$3.7 million dollars of services across the region last year. They served over 250,000 home-delivered and congregate meals and provided hundreds of thousands of hours of homemaker and caregiver services and meet the needs of our nearly 800 PASSPORT clients.

Simcox Award

Buckeye Hills also developed The Simcox Leadership Award to recognize a current or past Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District Board member, business, community or county leader who exemplifies principles of vision and leadership and commitment to the success of the 8-county region. The award was introduced in 2008 to honor the leadership of C. Boyer Simcox who served as Executive Director of Buckeye Hills and an advocate for the region.

Town Hall Meetings

Again in 2009, Buckeye Hills hosted a series of Town Hall meetings in each of the eight counties across the district. 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 for local issues. 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 THREE – REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Constituency

Population profile

	Census 2000	2001*	2002*	2003*	2004*	2005*	2006*	2007*	2008*
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	11,485,910
BHHVRDD	255,000	255,215	255,533	256,349	255,865	255,123	254,637	254,511	254,824
Athens	62,223	62,711	62,933	63,135	62,185	62,028	63,237	63,275	63,255
Hocking	28,241	28,367	28,560	28,691	28,864	28,927	28,708	28,959	28,975
Meigs	23,072	23,034	23,167	23,236	23,170	23,179	22,940	22,895	22,722
Monroe	15,180	15,145	14,978	14,950	14,927	14,736	14,368	14,258	14,221
Morgan	14,897	14,893	14,828	14,844	14,932	14,895	14,649	14,613	14,510
Noble	14,058	13,957	13,993	14,072	14,172	14,097	14,144	14,096	14,333
Perry	34,078	34,323	34,571	34,869	35,033	35,106	34,837	34,839	35,241
Washington	63,251	62,785	62,503	62,552	62,582	62,155	61,754	61,576	61,567

* 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	11,353,140	11,501,180	11,666,850	11,816,170	12,005,730	12,164,200	12,317,613	8.50%
BHHVRDD	255,000	260,640	263,860	269,040	269,200	270,740	270,110	5.93%
Athens	62,220	63,970	64,530	67,210	66,000	66,580	66,340	6.62%
Hocking	28,240	28,870	29,840	30,300	31,000	31,200	31,500	11.54%
Meigs	23,070	23,500	23,690	23,960	23,990	24,050	23,830	3.29%
Monroe	15,180	14,760	14,800	14,380	14,280	13,760	13,490	-11.13%
Morgan	14,900	15,200	15,200	15,270	15,120	14,960	14,620	-1.88%
Noble	14,060	14,730	15,370	15,840	16,230	16,490	16,690	18.71%
Perry	34,080	35,720	36,920	38,430	39,500	40,940	41,990	23.21%
Washington	63,250	63,890	63,510	63,650	63,080	62,760	61,650	-2.53%

Tables 3.01 and 3.02 illustrate the overall population of the Buckeye Hills region in the years since the 2000 Census. Since 2000, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, and Washington Counties have lost population, with the remainder of the counties remaining nearly unchanged. 2008 estimates show that the Buckeye Hills- Hocking Valley Regional Development District Region only comprised 2.24 percent of the entire state population. According to population, the region also had three of the five smallest counties in the state, with our largest county (Athens) ranking 39th of 88. Population projections to the year 2030 estimate that three of eight counties will lose population, with the entire district only gaining slightly more than 15,000 people by then, and increase of 5.9 percent.

	Total	0-4	5-14	15-19	20-24	15-44	25-64	65-84	15+	65+	85+
BHHVRDD	254,824	14,065	28,947	20,706	25,415	110,949	129,356	31,526	211,812	36,335	4,809
Athens	63,255	2,930	5,740	8,062	13,632	36,008	26,352	5,628	54,585	6,539	911
Hocking	28,975	1,773	3,720	1,789	1,642	11,316	15,926	3,685	23,482	4,125	440
Meigs	22,722	1,378	2,681	1,445	1,256	8,853	12,527	2,951	18,663	3,435	484
Monroe	14,221	734	1,554	912	769	5,085	7,593	2,304	11,933	2,659	355
Morgan	14,510	831	1,748	940	779	5,396	7,546	2,295	11,931	2,666	371
Noble	14,333	731	1,420	867	1,421	6,897	7,963	1,674	12,182	1,931	257
Perry	35,241	2,317	4,965	2,454	2,032	14,469	19,142	3,780	27,959	4,331	551
Washington	61,567	3,371	7,119	4,237	3,884	22,925	32,307	9,209	51,077	10,649	1,440

Table 3.03 details the breakdown of population in the Buckeye Hills region by age cohort in 2008. 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 over 14 percent of the total population of the district. The 25-64 cohort composes over 50 percent of our region’s population. This population composes the majority of the ‘baby boomer’ generation, and is part of the explanation for the predicted boom in the health care field as these individuals move towards retirement.

	Total Population	White	Black	Aboriginal American	Asian	Native Hawaiian & Oth. Pac. Isl.	Bi- & Multi-Racial	Hispanics	Total Minorities**
Ohio	11,485,910	9,735,944	1,382,358	29,443	181,362	4,095	152,708	302,101	2,011,590
BHHVRDD	254,824	244,346	4,717	762	1,945	49	3,005	1,963	12,249
Athens	63,255	59,017	1,696	219	1,361	14	948	803	4,930
Hocking	28,975	28,071	363	88	102	0	351	179	1,073
Meigs	22,722	22,168	184	67	54	0	249	167	712
Monroe	14,221	14,023	42	28	18	1	109	64	253
Morgan	14,510	13,509	535	53	12	0	401	66	1,061
Noble	14,333	13,082	1,124	39	27	0	61	69	1,316
Perry	35,241	34,634	148	109	51	4	295	231	828
Washington	61,567	59,842	625	159	320	30	591	384	2,076

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

Table 3.04 illustrates the racial makeup of the population in the eight-county district based on 2008 population estimates. 95.88 percent of the population was ‘White’, and 1.85 percent was ‘Black’, increasing slightly since 2006. The other racial categories and multi racial designations make up the small remainder. Of the total population in the region, 4.80 percent were minority, up slightly from 2006, continuing a slow trend upward.

Performance Measures

People

Table 3.05 2007 Vital Statistics										
	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 2007, remaining 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 of 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 at 65.5 per 1,000; Hocking County had the highest teen birth rate at 29.5 per 1,000. Meigs County reported the highest death rate at 1,229.9 per 100,000. Hocking County had the highest marriage rate during 2006 at 7.7 per 1,000.

(Continued on next page.)

Table 3.06 - IRS Net Migration Flows 2000-2008							Net		
	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	00-08
BHHVRDD	-496	-325	413	-904	-470	-1,086	-654	-434	-3,956
Athens	212	3	6	-1,004	410	-336	-267	-260	-1,236
Hocking	85	87	54	-6	-36	-115	168	-36	201
Meigs	-52	93	25	-45	-20	-176	-72	-125	-372
Monroe	-130	-139	-14	30	-205	-132	-71	12	-649
Morgan	-90	-95	5	38	-28	-79	-48	-100	-397
Noble	-164	18	124	66	-154	111	-70	-63	-132
Perry	53	13	133	-18	-32	-93	-123	283	216
Washington	-410	-305	80	35	-405	-266	-171	-145	-1,587

Table 3.06 shows the net migration of each county in the district from 2000 to 2008. Migration can be caused by many factors; in most cases these numbers are influenced by proximity to local job markets (e.g. 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 Perry County (216), while Washington County continued to suffer the biggest loss (-1,587). The gain in Perry County may be explained by its proximity to the Columbus Ohio metro area. Residents are moving to places like Perry County to escape the urban sprawl and conditions of the Columbus area.

The net migration loss in Washington County continues to be the largest; however the numbers have been steadily improving since 2004 - 2005. The Buckeye Hills region has been hard hit by losses in the manufacturing sector, which is one factor driving the negative net migration figures higher as residents look for work outside the district. The U.S. economic recession has only led to a tightening of the local job markets and related conditions, making it unlikely that these figures will experience much improvement in the near future.

Employment

Table 3.07 – Workforce Commuting Patterns (2000)			
	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 sheds further light on 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	2007
United States	\$29,845	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714	\$38,615
Ohio	\$28,206	\$28,581	\$29,186	\$29,831	\$30,744	\$31,939	\$33,320	\$34,468
BHHVRDD	\$19,142	\$19,811	\$20,424	\$20,694	\$21,106	\$21,689	\$22,670	\$23,399
Athens	\$17,873	\$19,407	\$20,046	\$20,431	\$20,934	\$21,371	\$22,030	\$22,864
Hocking	\$20,233	\$20,848	\$21,446	\$21,950	\$22,911	\$23,707	\$24,690	\$25,469
Meigs	\$19,774	\$20,023	\$19,525	\$19,164	\$19,575	\$20,257	\$21,754	\$22,226
Monroe	\$19,010	\$20,028	\$20,780	\$22,035	\$22,455	\$22,720	\$23,998	\$25,250
Morgan	\$19,429	\$19,630	\$20,033	\$20,025	\$19,403	\$19,461	\$20,094	\$20,654
Noble	\$15,674	\$16,172	\$16,986	\$17,093	\$17,182	\$17,973	\$18,366	\$18,441
Perry	\$18,407	\$18,700	\$19,496	\$19,833	\$20,672	\$21,278	\$22,095	\$23,007
Washington	\$22,733	\$23,678	\$25,082	\$25,020	\$25,713	\$26,743	\$28,330	\$29,281

Per Capita Income Gap

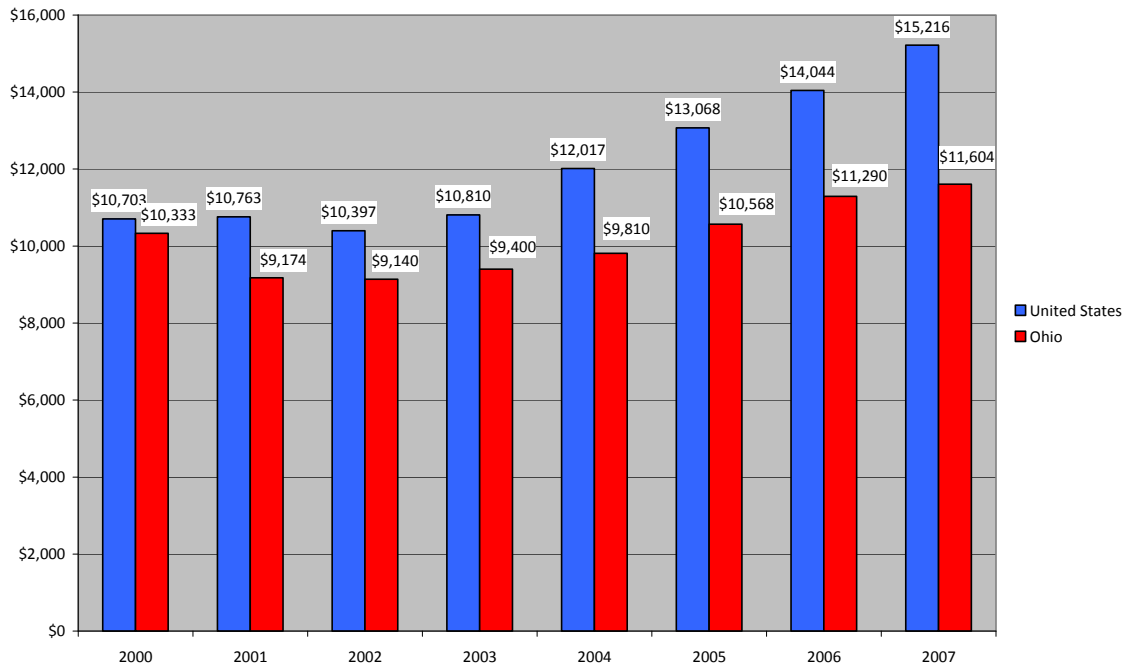


Table 3.08 illustrates the personal per capita income of counties within the region as compared to the state and federal levels over the period from 2000 to 2007. In 2007 the average per capita income for the Buckeye Hills district was \$23,399; which was \$11,069 below the state average and \$15,216 below the national average. The gap between the per capita income average in the Buckeye Hills region and the correlating state and national averages continues to grow, as evidenced in the graph above. Over this eight-year span, Noble County again had the lowest average annual per capita income in the region, and in the state at \$18,441.

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 2007:

Noble County –	88 (out of 88)
Morgan County –	86
Meigs County –	85
Perry County –	83
Athens County –	84
Monroe County –	75
Hocking County –	73
Washington County –	43

With the exception of Washington County, the Buckeye Hills region continues to have 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.

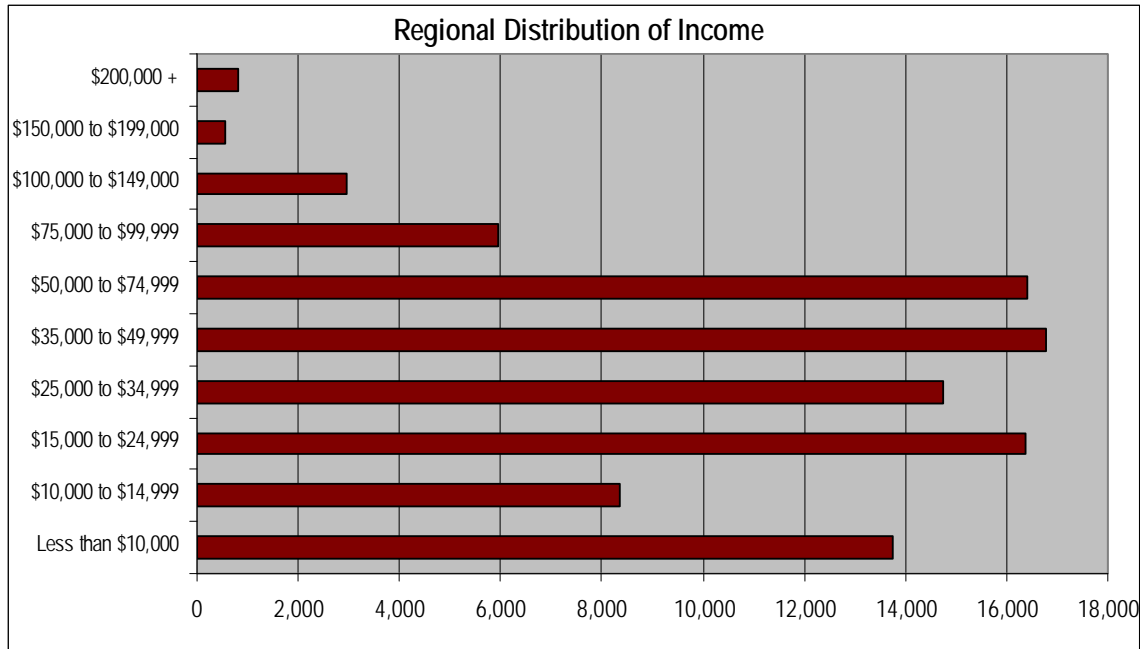
Table 3.10 below shows us poverty rates in selected age cohorts. This table illustrates some alarmingly high poverty rates in very sensitive areas, especially related children under the age of 18. (This information is unchanged since the last report.)

Table 3.10 - 2000 Poverty Rate By Age (Individuals)				
	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.)

Table 3.11 - Regional Distribution of Income	
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.)



Quality of Life

	Total Housing Units (2000)	Est. Housing Units (2007)	Occ. Housing Units (2000)	Occupancy Rate (2000)
BHHVRDD	109,702	111,623	96,672	86
Athens	24,901	25,205	22,501	90.4
Hocking	12,141	12,533	10,843	89.3
Meigs	10,782	10,830	9,234	85.6
Monroe	7,212	7,221	6,021	83.5
Morgan	7,771	8,039	5,890	75.8
Noble	5,480	5,651	4,546	83
Perry	13,655	14,173	12,500	91.5
Washington	27,760	27,971	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 75.8 percent of all housing units within the county remaining vacant. (This information is unchanged since the last report.)

Table 3.13 - Rent in 2000								
	Num. of renter occupied units	Median rent	Rent as Percentage of Income					
			Less than 15%	15-19.9%	20-24.9%	25-29.9%	30-34.9%	More than 35%
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 the 1990 Census. 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. (This information is unchanged since the last report.)

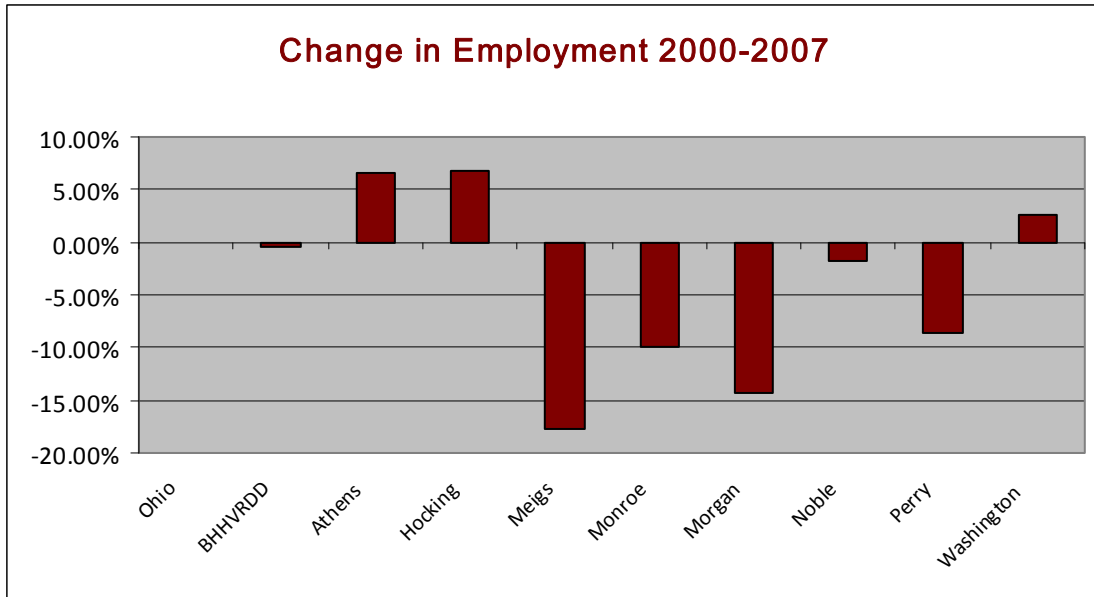
Economic Structure

Jobs

Table 3.14 - Total Full and Part Time Employment 2000-2007										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Changes: 00-07	
									Num.	Pct.
Ohio	6,835,688	6,759,196	6,690,820	6,663,893	6,741,288	6,818,086	6,893,151	6,829,647	-6,041	-0.09%
BHHVRDD	106,622	105,294	106,811	105,872	105,433	105,399	106,471	106,078	-544	-0.51%
Athens	27,910	28,030	28,415	28,682	29,350	29,667	29,804	29,761	1,851	6.63%
Hocking	9,754	9,804	9,927	9,861	10,288	10,480	10,664	10,417	663	6.80%
Meigs	7,796	7,489	6,881	6,428	6,276	6,267	6,494	6,414	-1,382	-17.73%
Monroe	7,392	7,313	7,337	7,445	6,955	5,997	6,028	6,661	-731	-9.89%
Morgan	5,934	5,860	5,878	5,603	5,262	5,244	5,302	5,083	-851	-14.34%
Noble	5,039	5,034	5,052	4,917	4,942	5,070	5,081	4,948	-91	-1.81%
Perry	10,115	9,582	9,800	9,683	9,490	9,510	9,489	9,247	-868	-8.58%
Washington	32,682	32,182	33,521	33,253	32,870	33,164	33,609	33,547	865	2.65%

Table 3.14 shows status of full and part time employment positions between 2000 and 2007. During this period the state experienced a slight decrease full and part time employment, down .09 percent, and this number is expected to increase with the release of 2008 numbers. The Buckeye Hills region has experienced a decrease of .51

percent over the same period, which is also expected to increase with the release of more recent information. The state experienced highs in employment during 2006, while the district experienced a high in 2002. During this period 5 of the 8 counties saw overall losses in total employment, with Meigs County experiencing the largest losses, seeing their total full and part time employment decrease by 17.73 percent (1,382 positions). The chart below illustrates the overall changes from 2000 to 2007.



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 (2009).

Table 3.15 - 2000 Business Expansions and Attractions						
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	Petroware	Crooksville	Pottery Products		\$1,300,000	
Washington	BP Amoco	Marietta	Polymer Products		\$14,000,000	
Washington	Chevron	Marietta	Plastic Resins		\$4,300,000	
Washington	Eramet Marietta	Marietta	Ferro Alloy Products		\$5,000,000	
Washington	Hi Vac	Marietta	Industrial Vacuum Cleaners	30	\$1,812,000	
Washington	Interactive Teleservices	Marietta Twp	Call Center	300		
Washington	Riverview Financial Services	Belpre	Call Center	78		

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

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	EZE 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

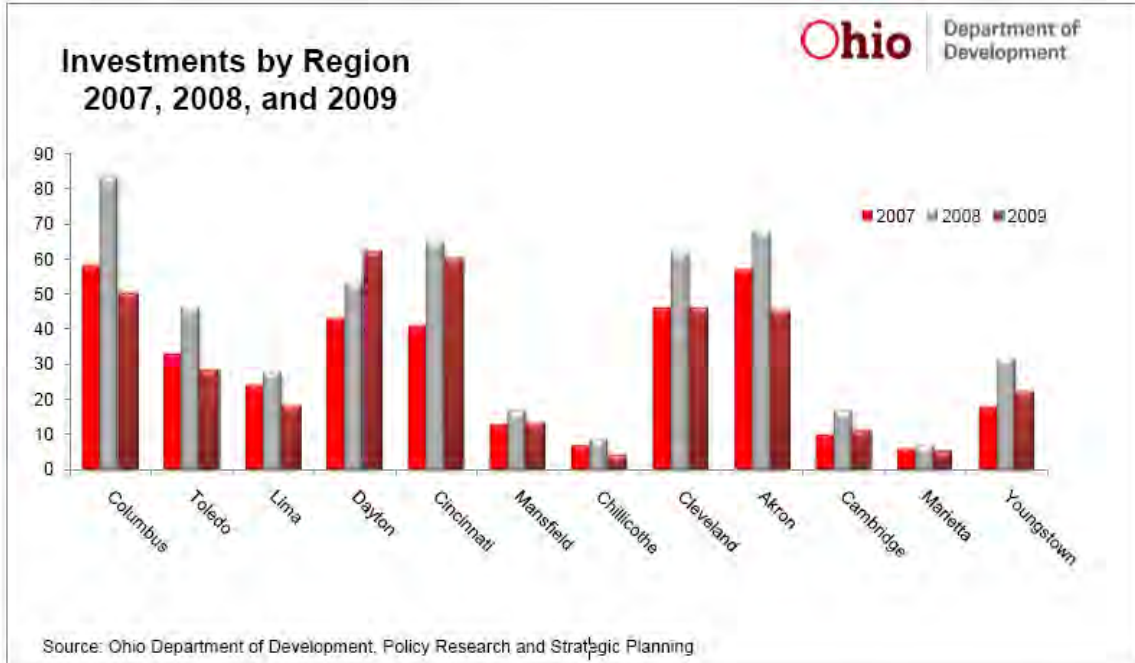
The two largest reported business expansion projects in the district took place in Washington County during 2008. These two projects totaled \$206 million, while the remainder of the projects reported in the district totaled \$38.5 million. Total investment in the region was reported at \$244,500,000.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

County	Company	City	Product	Jobs	Investment	Square Feet
Athens	Ed Map Inc.	Athens	Books	40	\$1,300,000	
Meigs	Gatling Ohio LLC	Racine	Coal Mining	100	\$75,000,000	20,000
Monroe	Voith Hydro Inc.	Ohio Twp.	Generators	40	\$4,600,000	32,400
Washington	Kraton Perf. Polymers Inc.	Belpre	Polymers		\$7,000,000	
Washington	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Marietta	Lab. Instruments	116	\$1,900,000	

According to information from the Ohio Department of Development, the Buckeye Hills region (ODOD Region 11) had five major business expansions/ attractions in 2009. The largest was a project near the Village of Racine in Meigs County, completed by Gatling Ohio to open a new coal mine operation. The total project cost was estimated at \$75 million. Voith Hydro Inc. also completed a project to move their operation in to a portion of the facility formerly known as Ormet Aluminum in Monroe County. Voith Hydro will manufacture generators and turbine components used in hydro electric systems and other advanced energy generation processes at this location.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Ohio	1,090	809	633	599	603	574	518	494	678
BHHVRDD	10	13	7	5	6	6	8	11	7
Athens	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	0
Hocking	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	2
Meigs	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Monroe	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Morgan	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	3
Noble	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Perry	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Washington	3	6	3	2	4	2	6	6	2

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 declined for the first time since 2003. Summary information for the entire state detailing private investment totals was not released in time for this report, although information for individual regions was available and utilized. The graph below summarizes investments by Ohio Department of Development Region for 2007, 2008, and 2009. (The entire Buckeye Hills region is known as the 'Marietta' region in this graph.)



(Note: Tables 3.15 to 3.24 represent 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)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Avg.
Ohio	\$6,547,578	\$6,935,685	\$8,195,324	\$8,874,962	\$8,984,171	\$4,364,793
BHHRDD	\$33,217	\$27,627	\$31,877	\$49,697	\$37,614	\$22,504
Athens	\$13,544	\$11,253	\$12,331	\$12,886	\$17,742	\$8,470
Hocking	\$1,213	\$895	\$976	\$1,064	\$1,114	\$658
Meigs	\$4,042	\$4,148	\$2,981	\$14,853	\$3,938	\$3,745
Monroe	\$2,482	\$1,984	\$2,932	\$2,298	\$2,659	\$1,544
Morgan	\$1,706	\$941	\$2,697	\$1,070	\$625	\$880
Noble	\$509	\$693	\$631	\$5,747	\$359	\$992
Perry	\$1,291	\$2,094	\$1,401	\$3,051	\$2,926	\$1,345
Washington	\$8,430	\$5,619	\$7,928	\$8,728	\$8,251	\$4,870

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

Table 3.26 illustrates total government procurement awards from 2000 to 2007. 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. Comparing 2006 to 2007 you can see the beginning of the economic downturn beginning to set in, as the procurements amounts

in some of the local counties dropped off drastically during this time, some by as much as 93% (Noble County).

Regional Labor Profile

Table 3.27 - Regional Civilian Labor Force						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Ohio 2009
Civilian Labor Force	119,400	120,000	120,900	120,400	121,000	5,970,200
Employment	110,400	112,100	112,900	111,600	107,600	5,359,000
Unemployment	8,900	7,900	7,800	8,800	13,600	611,200
Unemployment Rate	8.6	7.6	7.3	8.3	12.7	10.2

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

Table 3.27 presents us with the historical labor force data for our region since 2005. The average unemployment rate in our district has been persistently higher than the state averages between 2005 and 2008. The low regional average was 7.3 percent in 2007, while the high was 12.7 percent in 2009. 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 2009. Interestingly, while the Civilian Labor Force was at its' largest in 2009, the number of individuals employed was lower than any time in the past five years. This is a sure sign that the U.S. economic downturn has taken hold in the Buckeye Hills region, affecting the employment opportunities for our residents. Unemployment was also at the highest level in five years during 2009, as the regional unemployment rate reached 12.7 percent.

Table 3.28 - Regional Components of Business Change					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Business Starts	536	487	564	452	428
Business Terminations	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	5,106	5,052	5,001	4,667	4,503

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

Table 3.28 illustrates the general business environment in the Buckeye Hills region from 2000 to 2008. The number of new business starts reached a 10 year low of 428 in 2008. The number of active businesses has also been decreasing each year during this period, down 603 from the levels in 2004.

Table 3.29 - Regional Employment by Industrial Sector 2004-2008					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	71,227	70,097	70,355	70,768	70,627
Private Sector	53,617	52,463	52,716	51,601	53,213
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	278	202	302	237	175
Mining	726	770	1,019	1,100	1,057
Utilities	262	272	588	494	581
Construction	3,555	3,596	3,541	3,696	3,189
Manufacturing	9,909	8,589	8,169	8,631	7,489
Wholesale trade	1,322	1,461	1,502	1,589	1,587
Retail trade	9,251	9,126	9,404	9,204	8,939
Transportation and warehousing	1,101	1,068	1,228	1,354	1,554
Information	581	547	606	590	552
Finance and insurance	2,372	2,245	2,148	2,233	2,191
Real estate and rental and leasing	747	811	774	635	649
Professional and technical services	1,597	1,572	1,543	1,537	1,603
Management of companies and enterprises	72	77	101	153	156
Administrative and waste services	1,498	1,530	1,503	1,638	1,725
Educational services	563	543	522	90	555
Health care and social assistance	8,228	8,262	8,649	8,639	8,901
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	364	404	358	317	313
Accommodation and food services	6,116	6,426	5,956	6,099	6,413
Other services, except public administration	1,882	1,999	1,839	1,881	1,842
State and Local Government	17,611	17,635	17,639	16,806	17,417
State government	848	859	4,463	814	1,366
Local government	8,448	8,539	12,126	7,859	8,939
Federal Government	815	811	825	2,814	783

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

Table 3.29 shows us the regional employment by industrial (NAICS) sector from 2004 to 2008. The biggest gains were in the 'health care and social assistance' sector (673) and the 'state government' sector (518). Large losses are continuing in the 'manufacturing' sector, with 2,420 fewer jobs being reported in 2008 compared to levels in 2004.

(Continued on next page.)

Table 3.30 - Regional Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector 2000-2008					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$541.19	\$541.77	\$539.78	\$569.56	\$595.52
Private Sector	\$514.41	\$516.17	\$509.46	\$474.33	\$567.27
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$371.67	\$297.97	\$303.79	\$312.22	\$386.73
Mining	\$806.30	\$582.87	\$626.35	\$656.40	\$432.53
Utilities	\$1,075.88	\$1,144.85	\$1,207.46	\$784.47	\$1,365.81
Construction	\$576.49	\$597.71	\$647.12	\$725.69	\$797.84
Manufacturing	\$745.52	\$815.94	\$825.04	\$765.63	\$774.83
Wholesale trade	\$597.07	\$642.71	\$641.10	\$700.77	\$718.74
Retail trade	\$325.69	\$332.32	\$337.71	\$354.24	\$361.31
Transportation and warehousing	\$530.25	\$549.29	\$555.73	\$483.89	\$612.87
Information	\$623.32	\$655.37	\$644.94	\$663.71	\$690.57
Finance and insurance	\$551.10	\$545.32	\$568.59	\$665.02	\$597.35
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$267.74	\$273.19	\$305.87	\$320.52	\$282.29
Professional and technical services	\$515.11	\$523.82	\$555.69	\$600.34	\$651.15
Management of companies and enterprises	\$722.21	\$738.85	\$759.60	\$1,686.13	\$901.80
Administrative and waste services	\$469.57	\$453.06	\$458.81	\$541.45	\$398.64
Educational services	\$452.48	\$447.88	\$456.96	\$306.76	\$473.29
Health care and social assistance	\$444.57	\$456.48	\$465.49	\$496.94	\$516.37
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$256.51	\$223.57	\$229.42	\$226.72	\$235.82
Accommodation and food services	\$174.70	\$174.59	\$174.24	\$186.94	\$197.41
Other services, except public administration	\$278.28	\$319.76	\$285.46	\$299.63	\$306.18
State & Local Government	\$588.76	\$590.22	\$599.26	\$557.51	\$642.42
State Government	\$753.70	\$773.95	\$735.37	\$728.62	\$888.63
Local Government	\$520.60	\$516.15	\$525.27	\$460.24	\$562.88
Federal Government (d)	\$769.51	\$750.89	\$793.66	\$811.04	\$833.55

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

Table 3.30 shows the average weekly wages for the recorded industries of employment (NAICS). The ‘utilities’ sector saw the largest increase in average weekly wages, up \$289 since 2004. The ‘mining’ sector reported the greatest loss in average weekly wages, losing nearly \$374, 46.4 percent, since 2004. The ‘utilities’ sector reported the highest average weekly wages for 2008 (\$1,365.81), while the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector paid the least (\$197.41).

(Continued on next page.)

Athens County Economics

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Ohio 2009
Civilian Labor Force	27,300	28,300	28,500	29,600	29,600	29,900	30,500	30,600	30,500	30,100	5,970,200
Employment	26,000	27,200	27,200	28,200	27,800	28,000	28,700	28,800	28,500	27,500	5,359,000
Unemployment	1,300	1,100	1,300	1,400	1,800	1,900	1,800	1,800	2,000	2,600	611,200
Unemployment Rate	4.7	3.8	4.6	4.8	6.2	6.4	5.9	5.9	6.6	8.6	10.2

Table 3.31 examines the civilian labor force in Athens County. The employment levels had been steady since 2004, but fell by 1,000 between 2008 and 2009. Unemployment has doubled in Athens County since 2000. Despite the fact that Athens County unemployment rose to a recent high of 8.6 percent in 2009, Athens County remains one of the only counties in the region with an unemployment rate that beat the state average in 2009. Athens County is home to a major state university, Ohio University, which plays a significant role in the local employment patterns and the composition of the civilian labor force.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	19,516	19,551	19,836	19,778	19,765
Private Sector	12,312	12,399	12,771	12,687	12,653
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Mining	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Utilities	69	67	67	-1	77
Construction	485	472	452	487	-1
Manufacturing	825	780	558	500	513
Wholesale trade	260	352	361	379	374
Retail trade	2,800	2,720	3,022	3,061	3,019
Transportation and warehousing	139	130	136	149	174
Information	327	324	350	341	356
Finance and insurance	512	462	470	468	447
Real estate and rental and leasing	274	293	269	275	265
Professional and technical services	371	383	414	420	422
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	55	56
Administrative and waste services	-1	-1	-1	283	267
Educational services	71	34	22	24	24
Health care and social assistance	2,942	2,926	3,153	3,074	3,142
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	102	114	111	104	80
Accommodation and food services	2,273	2,423	2,405	2,371	2,345
Other services, except public administration	552	549	490	477	462
State and Local Government	7,204	7,151	7,064	7,091	7,112
State government	-1	-1	3,575	-1	-1
Local government	-1	-1	3,489	-1	-1
Federal Government	257	264	277	253	245

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

The employment picture of Athens County is dominated by the ‘state and local government’, ‘health care,’ ‘retail trade’, and ‘accommodation and food services’ sectors of employment. The large government presence is to be expected with a large public university in the county. The manufacturing actually experienced a very small gain in manufacturing jobs between 2008 and 2009; however overall the loss in this sector during this period was 312 positions.

Table 3.33 - Athens County- Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$578.94	\$592.27	\$597.50	\$620.40	\$645.15
Private Sector	\$428.17	\$438.87	\$444.15	\$464.15	\$496.04
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Mining	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Utilities	\$1,168.83	\$1,235.40	\$1,216.23	(c)	\$1,303.69
Construction	\$451.42	\$482.69	\$501.25	\$518.48	(c)
Manufacturing	\$573.87	\$589.96	\$643.56	\$616.58	\$660.54
Wholesale trade	\$526.48	\$512.46	\$539.54	\$528.81	\$566.33
Retail trade	\$373.71	\$384.31	\$381.69	\$413.13	\$434.77
Transportation and warehousing	\$605.00	\$659.92	\$626.25	\$616.83	\$589.60
Information	\$527.96	\$494.02	\$442.88	\$467.00	\$628.98
Finance and insurance	\$602.19	\$597.38	\$614.87	\$632.48	\$684.35
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$413.38	\$389.75	\$366.67	\$383.60	\$392.67
Professional and technical services	\$648.13	\$668.19	\$693.50	\$717.63	\$735.48
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$892.67	\$916.67
Administrative and waste services	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$265.52	\$269.23
Educational services	\$291.54	\$274.73	\$282.98	\$263.98	\$299.58
Health care and social assistance	\$548.50	\$575.54	\$575.46	\$606.54	\$636.75
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$344.44	\$360.42	\$371.06	\$377.15	\$380.50
Accommodation and food services	\$163.54	\$163.67	\$168.17	\$185.60	\$196.29
Other services, except public administration	\$327.85	\$354.63	\$380.77	\$374.53	\$383.86
State & Local Government	\$836.58	\$858.31	\$874.81	\$899.99	\$910.41
State Government	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Local Government	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Federal Government (d)	\$856.06	\$893.13	\$915.79	\$980.31	\$985.94

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

Table 3.33 depicts the average weekly wages by industrial (NAICS) sector from 2004 through 2008. The ‘utilities’ sector paid the highest weekly wage (\$1,303.69) reported in the county in 2008. The lowest wages in the county were found in the ‘accommodation and food services’ sector (\$196.29).

Table 3.34 - Athens County- Components of Business Change									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Business Starts	132	157	107	121	119	90	134	97	88
Business Terminations	139	129	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	-7	28	na	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	1,000

Over the nine-year period from 2000-2008, 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 116 per year. The number of total active businesses has reached a nine year low in 2008 of 1,000. Information on business terminations and net change continues to be suppressed for all counties.

Hocking County Economics

Table 3.35 - Hocking County- Civilian Labor Force											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Ohio 2009
Civilian Labor Force	11,800	11,800	12,000	12,200	13,800	13,800	14,000	14,200	14,200	14,300	5,970,200
Employment	10,800	11,100	11,200	11,200	12,700	12,800	13,100	13,300	13,100	12,700	5,359,000
Unemployment	1,000	800	800	1,000	1,100	1,000	900	900	1,100	1,600	611,200
Unemployment Rate	8.7	6.4	6.4	8	7.7	7.5	6.2	6.4	7.7	11.3	10.2

The unemployment rate in Hocking County reached a nine year high in 2009 at 11.3 percent. The number of unemployed individuals also experienced a significant rise to 1,600 in 2009, after hovering around the 1,000 level since 2000. The overall civilian labor force reached it's highest level in 2009, with 14,300 potential workers, however employment could not keep up with this expansion, as only 12,700 people were listed as employed compared with 13,100 in 2008.

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Table 3.36 - Hocking County- Employment by Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	6,803	6,816	7,073	7,001	6,862
Private Sector	5,151	5,087	5,193	5,161	5,026
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	-1	31	35	31	26
Mining	-1	146	189	217	206
Utilities	-1	-1	-1	-1	9
Construction	342	342	332	316	325
Manufacturing	1,264	1,126	1,100	1,039	948
Wholesale trade	127	119	-1	-1	61
Retail trade	990	1,005	977	922	866
Transportation and warehousing	-1	-1	104	101	92
Information	50	46	40	43	50
Finance and insurance	187	189	187	187	182
Real estate and rental and leasing	100	123	127	90	89
Professional and technical services	86	83	87	77	87
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	131	129	175	165	136
Educational services	30	29	29	30	22
Health care and social assistance	529	537	539	534	582
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	98	99	54	51	60
Accommodation and food services	738	745	893	1,020	1,021
Other services, except public administration	226	222	230	263	266
State and Local Government	1,652	1,730	1,879	1,841	1,837
State government	358	362	374	371	363
Local government	1,294	1,368	1,505	1,470	1,474
Federal Government	52	53	52	52	53

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

Table 3.36 illustrates the employment levels by NAICS employment sector in Hocking County. The manufacturing sector in Hocking County continues to shrink, with a reported loss of 316 jobs between 2004 and 2008. 'Accommodation and food services' saw the largest increase over this period with 283 positions.

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

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Table 3.37 - Hocking County- Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$507.85	\$509.02	\$508.46	\$536.17	\$555.31
Private Sector	\$458.13	\$459.94	\$461.77	\$475.31	\$491.44
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	(c)	\$366.90	\$344.63	\$395.38	\$434.44
Mining	(c)	\$561.19	\$592.96	\$582.81	\$604.46
Utilities	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$410.90
Construction	\$509.25	\$520.87	\$526.06	\$578.48	\$574.38
Manufacturing	\$670.40	\$701.10	\$728.88	\$749.58	\$765.35
Wholesale trade	\$641.87	\$722.35	(c)	(c)	\$998.85
Retail trade	\$366.96	\$366.58	\$369.56	\$389.12	\$405.83
Transportation and warehousing	(c)	(c)	\$546.13	\$579.08	\$583.08
Information	\$662.44	\$639.48	\$580.60	\$623.13	\$641.62
Finance and insurance	\$595.98	\$578.13	\$608.13	\$631.96	\$625.52
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$273.50	\$232.31	\$255.29	\$273.88	\$300.46
Professional and technical services	\$426.48	\$422.54	\$483.98	\$495.54	\$579.00
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Administrative and waste services	\$332.54	\$312.21	\$322.37	\$343.71	\$406.00
Educational services	\$599.54	\$614.38	\$626.88	\$647.60	\$631.38
Health care and social assistance	\$478.31	\$494.65	\$493.10	\$533.90	\$579.83
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$266.10	\$258.10	\$207.40	\$224.31	\$290.71
Accommodation and food services	\$200.58	\$200.48	\$198.10	\$205.42	\$219.44
Other services, except public administration	\$280.58	\$286.85	\$289.48	\$296.38	\$309.23
State & Local Government	\$662.73	\$653.06	\$637.76	\$706.50	\$729.83
State Government	\$894.19	\$922.27	\$879.85	\$990.77	\$1,041.35
Local Government	\$598.46	\$581.92	\$577.33	\$634.77	\$653.06
Federal Government (d)	\$741.33	\$689.33	\$738.69	\$747.41	\$797.04

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.
 (Note: Not all sector wages were reported, '(c)' signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

The above table compares the average weekly wages for industrial sectors in Hocking County from 2004-2008. The highest average weekly wage in Hocking County during 2007 was found in the 'state government' sector (\$1,041.35). The lowest wage was found in the 'accommodation and food services' sector (\$219.44)

Table 3.38 - Hocking County- Components of Business Change									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Business Starts	93	83	60	87	84	74	91	63	76
Business Terminations	79	78	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	14	5	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	516	504	527	528	562	554	549	511	488

The total number of active businesses has been declining in Hocking County since 2004, reaching the lowest level in nine years during 2008 (488). Despite these decreases,

Hocking County is averaging nearly 79 business starts per year over this nine-year period, and actually experienced an increase between 2007 and 2008.

Meigs County Economics

Table 3.39 - Meigs County- Civilian Labor Force											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Ohio 2009
Civilian Labor Force	8,400	8,000	7,400	7,100	9,000	9,000	9,100	9,300	9,100	9,200	5,970,200
Employment	7,500	7,300	6,600	6,000	8,100	8,100	8,300	8,400	8,200	7,800	5,359,000
Unemployment	900	700	800	1,100	1,000	900	800	800	900	1,400	611,200
Unemployment Rate	10.5	8.7	11.3	15.7	10.8	9.8	8.5	8.9	10.2	15.4	10.2

Table 3.39 shows civilian labor force information for Meigs County. The civilian labor force has been relatively steady since a 1,900 person rise between 2003 and 2004. Employment in the county had been reporting in the 8,000 range, with the level dropping off slightly to 7,800 in 2009. In 2003 the unemployment rate jumped 4.4 percent from the previous year, bringing the total 15.7 percent, a high not reached again until 2009 when the rate hit 15.4 percent. Like many counties in the region the civilian labor force is growing faster than the opportunities in the community needed to support that growth. Unfortunately, Meigs County continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the state on a monthly basis.

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Table 3.40 - Meigs County- Employment by Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	3,550	3,542	3,667	3,655	3,479
Private Sector	2,514	2,489	2,632	2,616	2,433
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	98	-1	88	102	70
Mining	142	-1	107	142	114
Utilities	-1	19	22	-1	-1
Construction	263	235	275	264	269
Manufacturing	-1	125	111	109	102
Wholesale trade	-1	43	74	74	77
Retail trade	609	595	632	611	559
Transportation and warehousing	34	41	26	-1	-1
Information	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Finance and insurance	158	149	161	162	162
Real estate and rental and leasing	16	13	13	15	12
Professional and technical services	60	59	-1	-1	55
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	-1	-1	123	-1	-1
Educational services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Health care and social assistance	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	16	16	-1	-1	9
Accommodation and food services	332	336	-1	-1	369
Other services, except public administration	73	66	-1	-1	-1
State and Local Government	1,035	1,052	1,035	1,039	1,047
State government	43	41	42	41	42
Local government	992	1,011	993	998	1,005
Federal Government	77	78	73	75	77

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

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.

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Table 3.41 - Meigs County- Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$424.29	\$428.33	\$430.85	\$450.58	\$480.52
Private Sector	\$391.85	\$400.40	\$401.31	\$420.69	\$450.56
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$223.08	(c)	\$278.94	\$270.06	\$288.67
Mining	\$748.13	(c)	\$685.42	\$750.54	\$754.65
Utilities	(c)	\$1,185.33	\$1,185.13	(c)	(c)
Construction	\$544.40	\$582.98	\$664.87	\$654.04	\$709.98
Manufacturing	(c)	\$533.81	\$550.52	\$540.79	\$592.13
Wholesale trade	(c)	\$652.13	\$709.85	\$743.27	\$660.00
Retail trade	\$313.73	\$322.56	\$322.38	\$341.67	\$318.38
Transportation and warehousing	\$516.87	\$540.48	\$552.65	(c)	(c)
Information	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Finance and insurance	\$442.00	\$465.52	\$469.21	\$476.87	\$497.23
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$170.15	\$179.71	\$169.96	\$236.75	\$267.42
Professional and technical services	\$410.94	\$427.94	(c)	(c)	\$382.56
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Administrative and waste services	(c)	(c)	\$256.65	(c)	(c)
Educational services	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Health care and social assistance	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$135.92	\$121.94	(c)	(c)	\$288.83
Accommodation and food services	\$174.67	\$175.92	(c)	(c)	\$214.13
Other services, except public administration	\$307.62	\$285.69	(c)	(c)	(c)
State & Local Government	\$503.56	\$494.69	\$506.13	\$525.86	\$549.57
State Government	\$674.79	\$713.38	\$678.81	\$827.86	\$849.71
Local Government	\$495.85	\$485.63	\$498.46	\$513.45	\$537.31
Federal Government (d)	\$760.63	\$747.46	\$811.67	\$843.59	\$854.60

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

Table 3.41 illustrates the average weekly wages by industrial sector for Meigs County. The highest reported wages in 2007 were in the 'federal government' sector (\$854.60), while the lowest reported wages were in the 'accommodation and food services,' sector (\$214.13). Meaningful trending for this data is also difficult due to suppression practices.

Table 3.42 - Meigs County- Components of Business Change									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Business Starts	33	45	37	36	33	28	37	23	11
Business Terminations	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	358	363	378	363	354	340	344	321	302

Meigs County experienced a nine-year low in business starts in 2008 with 11, only one third of the starts recorded in 2000. A high of 45 new business starts was recorded during 2001. The number of total active businesses has also reached the lowest levels in nine years. Meigs County has averaged 31 business starts per year over this period.

Monroe County Economics

Table 3.43 - Monroe County-Civilian Labor Force											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Ohio 2009
Civilian Labor Force	5,800	5,300	5,300	5,400	6,100	5,500	5,100	5,600	5,700	5,700	5,970,200
Employment	5,200	4,900	4,800	4,900	5,500	4,700	4,500	5,100	5,200	5,000	5,359,000
Unemployment	500	300	400	500	600	700	600	500	500	700	611,200
Unemployment Rate	9.4	6.6	8.1	8.8	10.1	13.1	11.3	8.2	8.6	12.7	10.2

Table 3.43 shows the civilian labor force totals for Monroe County from 2000 to 2009. 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 nine-year period. The unemployment rate in Monroe County has been continually high in comparison to the other counties in the district, reaching a high of 13.1 percent in 2005. Unfortunately Monroe County regularly has one of the highest monthly unemployment rates in the state. Unemployment in this county is largely influenced by its largest employer, Ormet Aluminum. A major labor struggle was resolved during 2005 and 2006, only to have the company severely cut back their operations during late 2008 and 2009 due to a utility rate issue.

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Table 3.44 - Monroe County- Employment by Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	4,134	3,147	2,967	3,638	3,781
Private Sector	3,242	2,262	2,151	2,854	3,001
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	20	18	16	13	-1
Mining	38	44	54	61	66
Utilities	-1	-1	24	26	25
Construction	171	192	166	163	158
Manufacturing	1,343	325	299	1,052	-1
Wholesale trade	-1	-1	51	48	81
Retail trade	370	357	358	352	363
Transportation and warehousing	117	122	115	94	208
Information	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Finance and insurance	438	428	417	412	420
Real estate and rental and leasing	9	9	8	8	10
Professional and technical services	42	39	43	38	-1
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	148	170	160	169	42
Educational services	34	35	37	36	35
Health care and social assistance	167	160	151	139	195
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	15	16	22	7	9
Accommodation and food services	135	153	107	107	104
Other services, except public administration	-1	93	97	106	121
State and Local Government	893	885	815	784	780
State government	38	37	34	39	38
Local government	855	848	781	745	742
Federal Government	54	51	54	53	54

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

The employment situation in Monroe County has been relatively unchanged for many years. Of note here are the staggering losses recorded between 2004 and 2008 in the 'manufacturing' sector, with 1,004 positions being lost between 2004 and 2006 alone. The 'transportation and warehousing' sector has seen only notable increase over this time, with 91 new positions being reported.

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	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$601.77	\$584.81	\$575.40	\$604.94	\$669.40
Private Sector	\$635.62	\$630.65	\$608.10	\$630.04	\$707.08
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$238.85	\$214.48	\$238.94	\$216.23	(c)
Mining	\$329.58	\$376.85	\$379.62	\$425.06	\$486.02
Utilities	(c)	(c)	\$1,190.75	\$1,113.17	\$1,287.75
Construction	\$419.00	\$475.00	\$633.50	\$604.27	\$675.65
Manufacturing	\$886.37	\$1,660.12	\$1,484.15	\$831.50	(c)
Wholesale trade	(c)	(c)	\$712.87	\$994.96	\$1,009.65
Retail trade	\$256.46	\$271.50	\$281.98	\$303.19	\$299.38
Transportation and warehousing	\$554.10	\$579.87	\$538.31	\$571.83	\$856.50
Information	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Finance and insurance	\$680.73	\$614.35	\$526.69	\$560.29	\$591.98
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$155.08	\$184.46	\$180.23	\$160.83	\$143.79
Professional and technical services	\$376.02	\$325.81	\$416.63	\$463.29	(c)
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Administrative and waste services	\$746.15	\$713.35	\$836.69	\$1,052.13	\$458.38
Educational services	\$356.38	\$330.88	\$301.40	\$315.46	\$320.92
Health care and social assistance	\$338.42	\$375.19	\$373.33	\$390.63	\$410.88
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$262.35	\$250.21	\$194.50	\$149.75	\$132.31
Accommodation and food services	\$147.67	\$154.12	\$151.17	\$162.50	\$163.62
Other services, except public administration	(c)	\$274.50	\$293.56	\$294.56	\$294.11
State & Local Government	\$478.56	\$467.69	\$489.54	\$514.03	\$524.30
State Government	\$663.85	\$679.56	\$662.63	\$778.11	\$837.96
Local Government	\$470.58	\$458.79	\$482.10	\$500.21	\$508.15
Federal Government (d)	\$824.52	\$728.67	\$786.85	\$808.78	\$803.25

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.
 (Note: Not all sector wages were reported, '(c)' signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

Based on table 3.43 above, the highest wage in the county was found in the 'utilities sector (\$1,287.75), while the lowest wage was found in the 'arts, entertainment, and recreation' sector (\$132.31).

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Business Starts	28	33	34	30	20	31	29	22	18
Business Terminations	26	28	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	2	5	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	368	369	380	379	376	371	364	328	309

In 2008 Monroe County experienced a nine-year low in the number of business starts taking place in the county with 18. The number of total active businesses in the county continues to decline since reaching a recent high of 380 during 2002. Fifty-nine fewer businesses were reported in 2008 compared to 2000.

Morgan County Economics

Table 3.47 - Morgan County- Civilian Labor Force											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Ohio 2009
Civilian Labor Force	4,500	4,500	4,300	4,300	6,300	6,200	5,800	5,800	5,700	5,700	5,970,200
Employment	3,900	3,800	3,700	3,600	5,700	5,600	5,300	5,200	5,100	4,800	5,359,000
Unemployment	600	700	600	700	700	600	500	500	600	900	611,200
Unemployment Rate	12.4	14.7	14.3	16.4	10.4	9.9	9.1	9.3	10.5	15.7	10.2

Table 3.46 provides us with data on Morgan County’s civilian labor force between 2000 and 2009. You will immediately notice the consistently high unemployment rates. On a month 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, which is still higher than the levels seen in 2000. The number of unemployed individuals jumped by 300 between 2008 and 2009, as evidenced by the corresponding 5.2 percent increase in unemployment rate during the same period. 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 3.48 - Morgan County- Employment by Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	2,927	2,726	2,417	2,363	2,409
Private Sector	2,223	2,033	1,703	-1	1,722
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Mining	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Utilities	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Construction	183	141	131	129	153
Manufacturing	483	360	336	341	416
Wholesale trade	72	67	75	73	-1
Retail trade	361	351	337	291	287
Transportation and warehousing	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Information	32	-1	36	33	28
Finance and insurance	110	108	-1	99	84
Real estate and rental and leasing	6	6	-1	4	7
Professional and technical services	58	56	54	50	46
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	-1	-1	-1	-1	23
Educational services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Health care and social assistance	298	318	339	345	352
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-1	6	7	7	5
Accommodation and food services	-1	151	161	163	170
Other services, except public administration	50	82	53	55	46
State and Local Government	705	693	716	-1	687
State government	58	60	61	-1	57
Local government	647	633	655	-1	630
Federal Government	40	39	38	36	41

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

Morgan County continues to endure a difficulties retaining and sustaining reasonable employment levels in the county. At least thirteen sectors of employment saw decreases between 2004 and 2008, with data suppression making further analysis difficult. The only real area of significant growth was in the 'health care and social assistance' sector, which added 54 positions since 2004.

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	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$585.75	\$587.35	\$493.13	\$527.54	\$547.44
Private Sector	\$604.35	\$605.31	\$477.06	(c)	\$534.33
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Mining	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Utilities	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Construction	\$651.65	\$646.23	\$710.71	\$696.69	\$638.19
Manufacturing	\$755.13	\$749.23	\$771.69	\$844.13	\$858.19
Wholesale trade	\$785.92	\$841.44	\$806.06	\$847.54	(c)
Retail trade	\$297.13	\$296.87	\$291.15	\$302.27	\$321.02
Transportation and warehousing	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Information	\$480.87	(c)	\$455.75	\$489.13	\$561.52
Finance and insurance	\$420.60	\$438.69	(c)	\$469.10	\$506.87
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$141.67	\$146.00	(c)	\$146.75	\$110.92
Professional and technical services	\$248.92	\$262.81	\$288.88	\$302.06	\$303.56
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Administrative and waste services	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$399.02
Educational services	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Health care and social assistance	\$389.56	\$380.71	\$397.83	\$452.23	\$429.73
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	(c)	\$153.65	\$201.48	\$166.48	\$148.02
Accommodation and food services	(c)	\$156.79	\$160.33	\$165.88	\$167.19
Other services, except public administration	\$255.12	\$587.83	\$253.80	\$294.07	\$287.60
State & Local Government	\$526.48	\$534.96	\$530.26	(c)	\$580.11
State Government	\$704.21	\$690.85	\$666.06	(c)	\$863.90
Local Government	\$510.50	\$520.29	\$518.52	(c)	\$554.62
Federal Government (d)	\$766.87	\$752.31	\$816.42	\$784.72	\$839.25

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

Despite large overall losses, the highest reported wage in Morgan County was reported in the 'manufacturing' sector (\$858.19), while the lowest weekly wage was reported in the 'arts, entertainment, and recreation' sector (\$148.02). The largest increase in weekly wages during this period came in the 'state government' sector (\$159.69).

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Business Starts	35	27	23	46	27	19	42	22	26
Business Terminations	29	28	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	6	-1	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	261	253	260	277	273	253	255	230	215

The number of new business starts in Morgan County saw a significant increase between 2005 and 2006 (23), however that level of expansion was not sustainable, as the number dropped back to 26 in 2008. The average number of new business starts per

year during this period was 29. The total number of active businesses has decreased to a nine-year low of 215 in 2008.

Noble County Economics

Table 3.51 - Noble County- Civilian Labor Force											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Ohio 2009
Civilian Labor Force	5,600	5,300	5,500	5,800	5,800	5,900	5,900	5,800	5,800	5,900	5,970,200
Employment	5,200	5,000	5,200	5,300	5,300	5,400	5,500	5,400	5,300	5,100	5,359,000
Unemployment	400	300	400	500	500	500	400	400	500	900	611,200
Unemployment Rate	7.5	5.8	6.9	8.9	8.5	8.1	7.2	7.4	8.5	14.4	10.2

Table 3.51 shows us civilian labor force information for Noble County between 2000 and 2009. The number of individuals reported as employed has been slowly decreasing since reaching a nine-year high of 5,500 in 2006. The unemployment rate experienced a 5.9 percent increase between 2008 and 2009; a sure sign that the U.S. economic downturn has found it’s way to Noble County. Since Noble County is one of the smallest counties in the state (smallest in the BH region) according to population, even slight changes in unemployment, employment, or civilian labor force can translate to large fluctuations in the unemployment percent.

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Table 3.52 - Noble County- Employment by Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	3,218	3,297	3,251	3,194	3,194
Private Sector	2,107	2,212	2,201	2,153	2,172
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Mining	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Utilities	18	12	12	11	11
Construction	99	110	112	111	129
Manufacturing	571	531	505	486	510
Wholesale trade	87	91	86	94	125
Retail trade	332	341	375	348	294
Transportation and warehousing	49	61	57	73	78
Information	14	13	15	16	-1
Finance and insurance	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Real estate and rental and leasing	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Professional and technical services	23	25	-1	-1	30
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	17	18	-1	-1	-1
Educational services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Health care and social assistance	437	514	559	530	508
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Accommodation and food services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Other services, except public administration	53	53	66	68	61
State and Local Government	1,111	1,086	1,050	1,042	1,023
State government	-1	-1	-1	-1	512
Local government	-1	-1	-1	-1	511
Federal Government	29	27	28	30	29

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

Data suppression of employment levels in Noble County makes trend analysis difficult between 2000 and 2008. Based on what is available, several sectors of employment in Noble County have seen modest gains of less than 50 positions between 2004 and 2008. 'State and local government' continues to be the largest sector of employment in the county.

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Table 3.53 - Noble County- Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$536.02	\$518.94	\$542.52	\$567.63	\$573.42
Private Sector	\$491.96	\$466.48	\$491.12	\$523.79	\$536.67
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Mining	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Utilities	\$667.92	\$622.85	\$679.56	\$674.79	\$676.79
Construction	\$484.19	\$402.38	\$432.75	\$514.44	\$552.31
Manufacturing	\$794.38	\$749.58	\$792.87	\$826.48	\$817.71
Wholesale trade	\$426.73	\$455.79	\$472.92	\$466.33	\$486.85
Retail trade	\$300.31	\$316.17	\$335.54	\$349.00	\$345.37
Transportation and warehousing	\$543.12	\$522.29	\$590.17	\$564.90	\$554.58
Information	\$512.02	\$508.17	\$842.83	\$798.54	(c)
Finance and insurance	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Real estate and rental and leasing	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Professional and technical services	\$532.81	\$665.90	(c)	(c)	\$946.31
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Administrative and waste services	\$534.04	\$485.00	(c)	(c)	(c)
Educational services	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Health care and social assistance	\$354.37	\$335.88	\$359.08	\$376.67	\$372.83
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Accommodation and food services	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Other services, except public administration	\$202.56	\$193.73	\$174.83	\$184.04	\$193.48
State & Local Government	\$619.48	\$625.52	\$650.32	\$657.67	\$650.68
State Government	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$764.60
Local Government	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	\$537.48
Federal Government (d)	\$672.42	\$666.04	\$697.56	\$675.00	\$688.37

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.
 (Note: Not all sector wages were reported, '(c)' signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

Table 3.53 shows the average weekly earnings by industrial sector (NAICS) for Noble County between 2004 and 2008. In 2008 the highest reported wages in Noble County were recorded in the ‘professional and technical services’ sector (\$946.31), while the lowest wages were recorded in the ‘other services, except public administration’ sector (\$193.48).

Table 3.54 - Noble County- Components of Business Change									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Business Starts	25	24	11	15	15	27	20	17	19
Business Terminations	17	24	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	8	0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	226	228	216	206	207	212	212	206	204

The business indicators in Noble County have fluctuated between 2000 and 2008. Noble County experienced a high number of business starts in 2005 with 27,

unfortunately that number dropped off to 19 by 2008, which was increase of 2 since 2007. Noble County has averaged approximately 19 business starts per year during the time period specified, and the total number of active businesses has been slowly declining since 2006.

Perry County Economics

Table 3.55 - Perry County- Civilian Labor Force											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Ohio 2009
Civilian Labor Force	14,200	14,400	14,700	15,000	16,700	16,600	16,600	16,400	16,400	16,600	5,970,200
Employment	13,100	13,400	13,500	13,500	15,200	15,200	15,400	15,200	15,000	14,400	5,359,000
Unemployment	1,100	1,000	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,200	1,200	1,400	2,300	611,200
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.1	8.1	9.8	8.8	8.1	7.4	7.4	8.5	13.6	10.2

Table 3.55 illustrates the state of the civilian labor force in Perry County. In a trend continuing since 2004, Perry County has sustained a consistent level of individuals in the civilian labor force, and in the number of individuals employed. Although the number of individuals employed dropped off by 600 in 2009, over the nine-year period the county level is up 1,300. The number of unemployed individuals jumped by 900 in 2009, corresponding with a nine-year high in the unemployment rate.

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Table 3.56 -Perry County- Employment by Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	6,462	6,417	6,327	6,044	5,982
Private Sector	4,646	4,581	4,433	4,165	4,097
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	24	22	20	16	16
Mining	232	228	259	258	256
Utilities	29	29	28	28	29
Construction	659	623	588	485	457
Manufacturing	1,156	1,134	1,040	896	880
Wholesale trade	78	74	80	86	92
Retail trade	664	679	647	631	612
Transportation and warehousing	58	61	62	68	65
Information	39	33	36	36	33
Finance and insurance	261	214	195	190	186
Real estate and rental and leasing	43	40	37	31	29
Professional and technical services	105	105	106	103	99
Management of companies and enterprises	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Administrative and waste services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Educational services	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Health care and social assistance	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	30	38	41	44	47
Accommodation and food services	382	389	373	378	358
Other services, except public administration	141	156	155	161	155
State and Local Government	1,816	1,836	1,895	1,879	1,885
State government	48	46	43	47	44
Local government	1,768	1,790	1,852	1,832	1,841
Federal Government	78	75	77	75	69

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

With the exception of the 'manufacturing' sector, which has lost 276 positions since 2004, and the 'construction' sector which lost 202 positions over the same period, Perry County has maintained a relatively steady employment pattern. The only sector reporting a notable increase during this time was the 'local government' sector, which grew by 73 positions.

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Table 3.57 - Perry County- Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$532.40	\$536.60	\$556.54	\$593.35	\$604.75
Private Sector	\$546.10	\$553.35	\$575.15	\$619.94	\$626.90
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$339.58	\$319.98	\$363.81	\$393.19	\$447.27
Mining	\$736.75	\$767.63	\$782.88	\$790.21	\$806.50
Utilities	\$1,239.44	\$1,313.52	\$1,518.02	\$1,452.35	\$1,496.98
Construction	\$901.21	\$925.75	\$1,012.21	\$1,342.35	\$1,427.63
Manufacturing	\$637.73	\$641.12	\$686.35	\$750.54	\$712.88
Wholesale trade	\$539.87	\$633.29	\$585.31	\$667.94	\$626.77
Retail trade	\$318.42	\$322.17	\$336.69	\$340.10	\$352.23
Transportation and warehousing	\$384.96	\$351.21	\$364.81	\$350.88	\$368.98
Information	\$845.06	\$913.54	\$809.98	\$810.88	\$813.65
Finance and insurance	\$470.29	\$466.69	\$491.67	\$493.29	\$517.13
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$222.69	\$250.08	\$268.04	\$179.38	\$198.65
Professional and technical services	\$697.10	\$703.25	\$676.40	\$751.94	\$736.27
Management of companies and enterprises	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Administrative and waste services	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Educational services	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Health care and social assistance	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$261.85	\$178.06	\$161.69	\$182.40	\$148.90
Accommodation and food services	\$171.27	\$177.00	\$161.65	\$175.46	\$191.29
Other services, except public administration	\$304.02	\$295.37	\$309.73	\$324.98	\$326.42
State & Local Government	\$497.35	\$494.79	\$512.64	\$534.45	\$556.54
State Government	\$728.33	\$763.15	\$712.90	\$840.02	\$899.71
Local Government	\$491.23	\$487.88	\$508.15	\$526.61	\$548.33
Federal Government (d)	\$683.85	\$667.21	\$690.54	\$736.67	\$743.56

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.
 (Note: Not all sector wages were reported, '(c)' signifies that the totals/averages were suppressed)

Table 3.57 presents the average weekly wages for industrial sectors in Perry County. The highest wage in Perry County was recorded in the 'utilities' sector (\$1,496.98). The 'construction' sector saw the largest increase in wages over this period, with an increase of \$526.42 since 2004. The lowest wage was recorded in the 'arts, entertainment, and recreation' sector (\$148.90).

Table 3.58 - Perry County- Components of Business Change									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Business Starts	116	94	107	105	112	90	98	90	74
Business Terminations	92	88	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	24	6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Total Active Businesses	617	620	620	643	692	686	676	608	589

Perry County experienced a recent high in total active businesses in the county in 2004 with 692. Unfortunately that number retreated to a nine-year low of 589 reported in

2008. The total decrease since 2000 has been 28 businesses. The number of business starts in the county has decreased to a recent low (74 in 2008), levels far below those reported in 2000. A high was reached in 2000 with 116 businesses opening their doors. The average number of new business starts in Perry County since 2000 is 98 per year.

Washington County Economics

Table 3.59 - Washington County- Civilian Labor Force											
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Ohio 2009
Civilian Labor Force	32,700	32,100	32,700	33,400	33,100	32,500	33,000	33,200	33,000	33,500	5,970,200
Employment	31,000	30,900	31,100	31,400	31,000	30,600	31,300	31,500	31,200	30,300	5,359,000
Unemployment	1,600	1,200	1,600	2,000	2,100	1,900	1,700	1,700	1,800	3,200	611,200
Unemployment Rate	5	3.8	4.8	6	6.3	5.9	5.3	5.1	5.5	9.6	10.2

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 2009. The unemployment levels reached a recent high 2009 as the unemployment rate nearly doubled from 5.5 percent in 2008 to 9.6 percent in 2009. Despite this fact, Washington County is one of two counties in the Buckeye Hills region with unemployment rates that remain competitive with the corresponding state rate over time.

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Table 3.60 - Washington County- Employment by Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law	24,617	24,601	24,817	25,095	25,155
Private Sector	21,422	21,400	21,632	21,965	22,109
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	136	131	143	75	63
Mining	314	352	410	422	415
Utilities	146	145	435	429	430
Construction	1,353	1,481	1,485	1,741	1,698
Manufacturing	4,267	4,208	4,220	4,208	4,120
Wholesale trade	698	715	775	835	777
Retail trade	3,125	3,078	3,056	2,988	2,939
Transportation and warehousing	704	653	728	869	937
Information	119	131	129	121	85
Finance and insurance	706	695	718	715	710
Real estate and rental and leasing	299	327	320	212	237
Professional and technical services	852	822	839	849	864
Management of companies and enterprises	72	77	101	98	100
Administrative and waste services	1,202	1,213	1,045	1,021	1,257
Educational services	428	445	434	-1	474
Health care and social assistance	3,855	3,807	3,908	4,017	4,122
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	103	115	123	104	103
Accommodation and food services	2,256	2,229	2,017	2,060	2,046
Other services, except public administration	787	778	748	751	731
State and Local Government	3,195	3,202	3,185	3,130	3,046
State government	303	313	334	316	310
Local government	2,892	2,889	2,851	2,814	2,736
Federal Government	228	224	226	217	215

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

Table 3.60 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 'accommodation and food services' sector (-210), strong gains have been made in the sectors of 'construction' (345), 'utilities' (284), and 'health care and social assistance' (267).

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Table 3.61 - Washington County- Average Weekly Earnings By Industrial Sector					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total covered under Ohio UC Law (b)	\$562.48	\$576.81	\$613.87	\$655.83	\$688.19
Private Sector	\$559.06	\$574.38	\$616.98	\$660.73	\$695.12
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$313.50	\$290.52	\$292.65	\$286.25	\$376.54
Mining	\$604.44	\$625.79	\$690.85	\$733.40	\$808.62
Utilities	\$1,227.31	\$1,367.15	\$1,455.08	\$1,466.52	\$1,652.94
Construction	\$650.77	\$745.79	\$695.60	\$896.79	\$1,006.71
Manufacturing	\$900.79	\$902.56	\$942.27	\$965.42	\$1,017.04
Wholesale trade	\$661.56	\$681.52	\$661.12	\$656.52	\$682.73
Retail trade	\$378.83	\$378.42	\$382.71	\$395.42	\$413.48
Transportation and warehousing	\$577.44	\$641.98	\$671.77	\$703.73	\$724.50
Information	\$711.58	\$721.65	\$737.60	\$793.58	\$807.10
Finance and insurance	\$645.88	\$656.46	\$700.96	\$726.13	\$758.40
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$497.73	\$530.02	\$595.00	\$541.90	\$562.10
Professional and technical services	\$780.44	\$714.13	\$774.75	\$871.60	\$874.90
Management of companies and enterprises	\$722.21	\$738.85	\$759.60	\$793.46	\$886.92
Administrative and waste services	\$265.54	\$301.69	\$419.54	\$504.44	\$460.56
Educational services	\$562.44	\$571.52	\$616.56	(c)	\$641.27
Health care and social assistance	\$558.25	\$576.90	\$594.13	\$621.67	\$668.17
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$268.40	\$242.62	\$240.38	\$260.25	\$261.50
Accommodation and food services	\$190.46	\$194.15	\$206.02	\$226.75	\$229.90
Other services, except public administration	\$270.19	\$279.48	\$296.07	\$328.85	\$348.54
State & Local Government	\$585.33	\$592.73	\$592.63	\$621.56	\$637.94
State Government	\$856.85	\$874.50	\$811.98	\$934.94	\$963.17
Local Government	\$556.98	\$562.40	\$567.04	\$586.37	\$601.21
Federal Government (d)	\$850.42	\$862.94	\$891.75	\$911.82	\$956.42

*Additional data available; most recent 5 year period shown.

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

In Washington County the highest average weekly wages were reported in the 'utilities' sector (\$1,652.94), while the lowest wages were recorded in the 'accommodation and food services' sector (\$229.90). Of the NAICS sectors reporting, the largest increase between 2004 and 2008 was recorded in the 'utilities' sector (\$425.63).

Table 3.62 - Washington County- Components of Business Change									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Business Starts	97	140	110	111	126	128	113	118	116
Business Terminations	108	110	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Net Change	-11	30	na	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	1,396

Table 3.62 illustrates the components of business change in Washington County from 2000 to 2008. 2001 saw a recent high number of businesses start in Washington County (140), while the number of total active businesses to a recent high of 1,513 in 2005.

Although business starts have dropped off between 2005 and 2008, the county still experienced an overall gain in business starts during the nine-year period. The average number of business starts per year over this period was approximately 117.

Economic Resources

Government Assistance

Table 3.63 - Direct Federal Payment to Individuals (2007)		
	Government Payments to Individuals	Retirement and Disability
BHHVRDD	\$1,576,926,000	\$564,886,000
Athens	\$352,344,000	\$91,974,000
Hocking	\$191,923,000	\$67,746,000
Meigs	\$157,185,000	\$56,481,000
Monroe	\$100,383,000	\$43,344,000
Morgan	\$94,301,000	\$34,473,000
Noble	\$66,772,000	\$27,955,000
Perry	\$220,258,000	\$77,431,000
Washington	\$393,760,000	\$165,482,000

Table 3.62 shows us the amount of direct federal payments made to individuals for fiscal year 2007. As we have observed in the past, Washington and Athens Counties have the highest amounts, generally 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 2007.

Table 3.64 - Federal Grants Awarded (FY 2008)	
	Grants Awarded
BHHVRDD	\$439,672,000
Athens	\$138,912,000
Hocking	\$32,857,000
Meigs	\$58,061,000
Monroe	\$30,003,000
Morgan	\$22,936,000
Noble	\$20,255,000
Perry	\$46,977,000
Washington	\$89,671,000

Table 3.64 illustrates federal grants awarded to the counties in the region during fiscal year 2008. As we described in the previous discussion, Athens and Washington Counties received proportionately higher amounts of federal grant monies during fiscal year 2008.

	Direct Loans	Guaranteed Loans
BHHVRDD	\$103,851,499	\$89,575,763
Athens	\$91,864,945	\$15,131,447
Hocking	\$550,740	\$14,145,016
Meigs	\$75,640	\$4,140,512
Monroe	\$32,115	\$2,995,248
Morgan	\$885,000	\$8,638,838
Noble	\$170,465	\$2,454,568
Perry	\$795,711	\$16,270,345
Washington	\$9,476,883	\$25,799,789

Table 3.65 illustrates the amounts of direct and guaranteed loans secured by the eight counties within the district. In this category, Perry and Washington Counties led the way, bringing in over \$41 million in guaranteed loans, while Athens and Washington Counties brought in over \$100 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 3.66 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 FOUR - REGIONAL ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

During the spring of 2010, the staff of Buckeye Hills invited local economic development practitioners, business representatives, county commissioners, mayors, local experts, and other interested parties to two informal web-based discussions to debate issues of local and regional importance. These meetings focused on considering the state of the regional economy; evaluating external trends and forces; enumerating partners for economic development; and addressing resources for economic development. Most of the information and discussion outlined below was gathered from these two meetings. Some of the opinions and views expressed in this chapter are based on Buckeye Hills' day-to-day work with local officials, community leaders, and economic development professionals.

This chapter also contains discussion of the overall condition of transportation, as well as transportation access, transportation planning and related topics as they affect the Buckeye Hills region.

State of the Economy

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Region

As communicated to Buckeye Hills staff by previous CEDS committees, constituents, and local governments; and as described in previous CEDS documents, some of the predominant strengths of the Buckeye Hills region are:

- low cost of living;
- high quality of life;
- resourceful and resilient populous;
- regional pride;
- regional cooperation;
- abundant natural resources;
- unique geographical features:
- access to post secondary education opportunities;
- open access to local leaders and decision makers;
- central location to major markets;
- strong foundation in basic industries, raw materials;
- abundance of historical attractions;

- emerging energy sector/cluster;

The Buckeye Hills region has experienced drastic economic changes since the previous CEDS revision of 2005. At that time the committee agreed that the largest issue facing our local communities was negative competition to attract major investment. In the time since, natural disasters, such as widespread flooding, coupled with a major sustained economic downturn have increased communities willingness to work together. As unemployment rates climb, local revenues decline, and budgets tighten, our local communities have become more willing than any time in recent memory to share resources, cooperate on projects, and maximize existing resources to produce the greatest benefit to all.

The greatest strength of the Buckeye Hills region is also the most intangible. Our region experiences what is considered locally to be a very high quality of life. Our counties are filled with natural beauty, steeped in history, and provide an excellent setting for enjoying a true work/life balance. Our counties also offer a cost of living that is very favorable to surrounding areas. In the past it has been difficult to capitalize on these strengths, but realizing that they provide a true advantage, local parties and communities are becoming much more active in promoting local areas as desirable places to work and live.

As communicated to Buckeye Hills staff by previous CEDS committees, constituents, and local governments; and as described in previous CEDS documents, some of the persisting weaknesses of the Buckeye Hills region are:

- lack of broadband deployment
- ‘Appalachian’ stigma
- lack of a regional message and mindset;
- susceptibility to natural disasters;
- aging and deteriorating infrastructure;
- difficult topography for development;
- persistence of distressed areas;
- lingering environmental issues;
- water/sewer availability in rural areas;
- programmatic difficulties based on rural/ urban mindset;
- lack of local initiative/participation;
- continued decline of the manufacturing sector;
- business losses due to out-of-state and foreign competition;
- most efforts in the region are focused on job creation, not career development

The businesses and communities within the Buckeye Hills region face many difficulties. Of primary concern is the lack of broadband availability to local communities. As we work to improve the condition of the local workforce, attract new employment

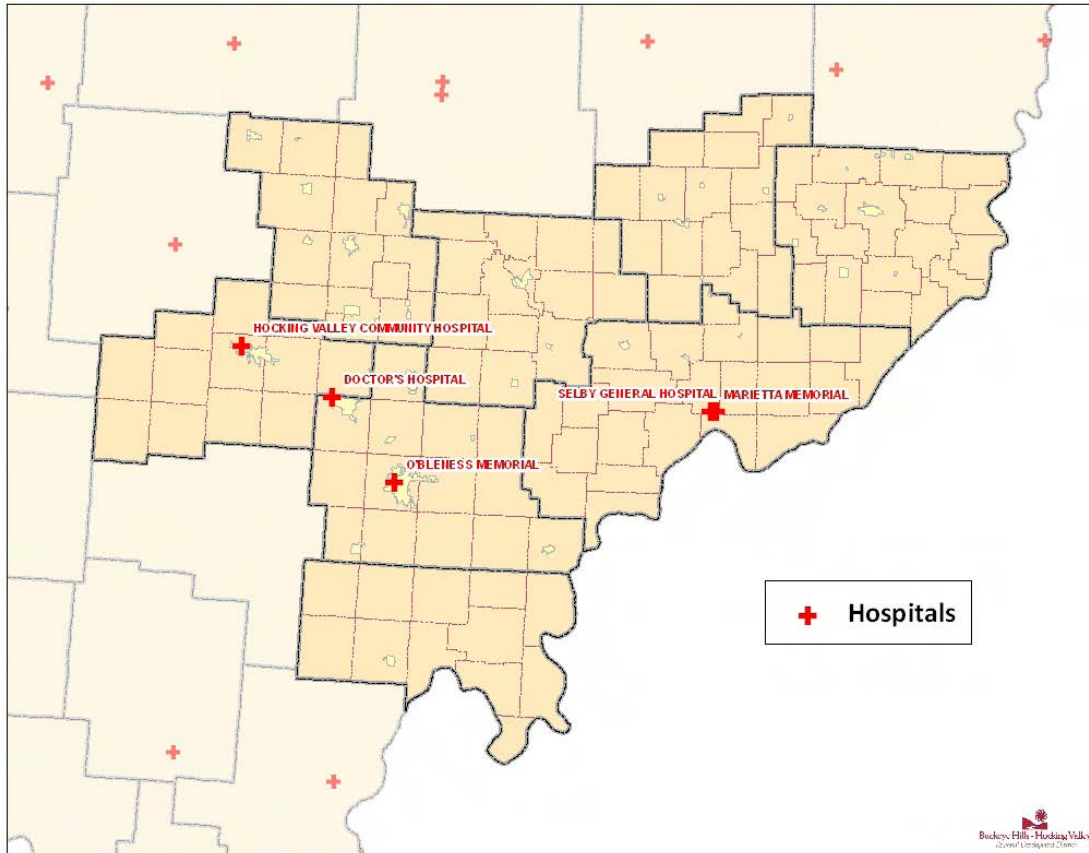
opportunities, and bolster existing employers, it is imperative that broadband be available for these initiatives to succeed. High speed internet access has become arguably as important to business today as any other common utility. If our region continues to lack access to broadband, it will be nearly impossible to sustain new and meaningful economic opportunities in our region. Related to this, some areas that do have access to broadband have seen low adoption rates. This indicates the need for additional efforts to educate individuals on how high speed internet access could benefit their local businesses, as well as their personal lives. There will be additional discussion on these topics later as we discuss the Connect Ohio program initiated by the administration of Ohio Governor Ted Strickland.

(A map of the Buckeye Hills region that depicts broadband internet service availability as compiled by Connected Nation/ Connect Ohio during 2009 is available at http://www.buckeyehills.org/development/ceds_10, or via email and hard copy upon request.)

The Buckeye Hills region also suffers from aging and deteriorating infrastructure of all types. Water and sewer systems, roads, bridges, and public facilities are all aging and deteriorating at a rate faster than can be offset by available public funding programs. Infrastructure weakness will continue to lead to difficulty in landing and sustaining new economic development opportunities for the Buckeye Hills region.

Related to the availability of local infrastructure, the Buckeye Hills region suffers from a lack of access to health care facilities. Currently the eight-county district only has five hospitals. According to 2007 information from the Ohio Department of Development, these hospitals have a total of 527 beds, and 305 physicians. This equates to approximately one bed for every 484 people in the district. There are approximately 836 people for each physician offered in one of these hospitals across the region. (Smaller independent physicians' offices across the district supplement this total number; however they were not recorded and analyzed for the purposes of this report.) All eight counties in the service area have been designated as Medically Underserved Areas in full or in part by Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). Six counties have also been designated as Healthcare Professional Shortage Areas in full or in part (Athens and Hocking Counties were not designated). These numbers indicate what residents of the region already know; access to health care and health care facilities is a growing problem in Southeast Ohio.

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Our region also suffers from a lack of fluidity in private industry and availability of private foundations that may be able to add an important piece to the regional economic development puzzle. Often times when a project is outside of the scope of traditional funding programs, or other programs such as Revolving Loan Funds, private foundations and companies can step in and provide crucial funding to catalyze a project. Unfortunately our region seems to lack these parties, or the existing parties are not financially able to add to the current economic development palette. For this reason many initiatives and ideas that may have value but exist outside the traditional funding channels often flounder and never come to fruition.

The lack of a consistent regional message and regional mindset has also caused difficulty for economic development efforts in the Buckeye Hills region. Each of our eight counties has an economic development professional, or some similar body responsible for managing and maximizing the development opportunities that exist in their respective county. While these parties are individually effective, there is no overarching messaging used to promote the Buckeye Hills region as a single entity. Buckeye Hills successfully applied for funding from AEP in the amount of \$10,000 in June of 2008 to create a regional economic development organization (focused on promotion and messaging) that would help fulfill this need. While local parties were, and many still

are, on board with this idea, no other funding was secured, and the effort has since effectively come to a halt.

This list of strengths and weaknesses is not exhaustive; however it is accurate as to those which are having the most direct impact on economic development activities across the eight-county region. The CEDS committee and other parties that regularly participate in programming offered by Buckeye Hills generally accept these noted strengths and weaknesses. Many of these topics have been identified and discussed repeatedly over the course of several CEDS documents.

Human and Economic Assets

The most important asset available to Buckeye Hills as we work to improve the overall quality of life in the region are our human assets; those that partner with us to do this important work. Buckeye Hills collaborates with all varieties of constituents, parties, organization, groups, and governments. Many times these human assets catalyze or contribute to the activities taking place in the Buckeye Hills region by contributing various economic assets.

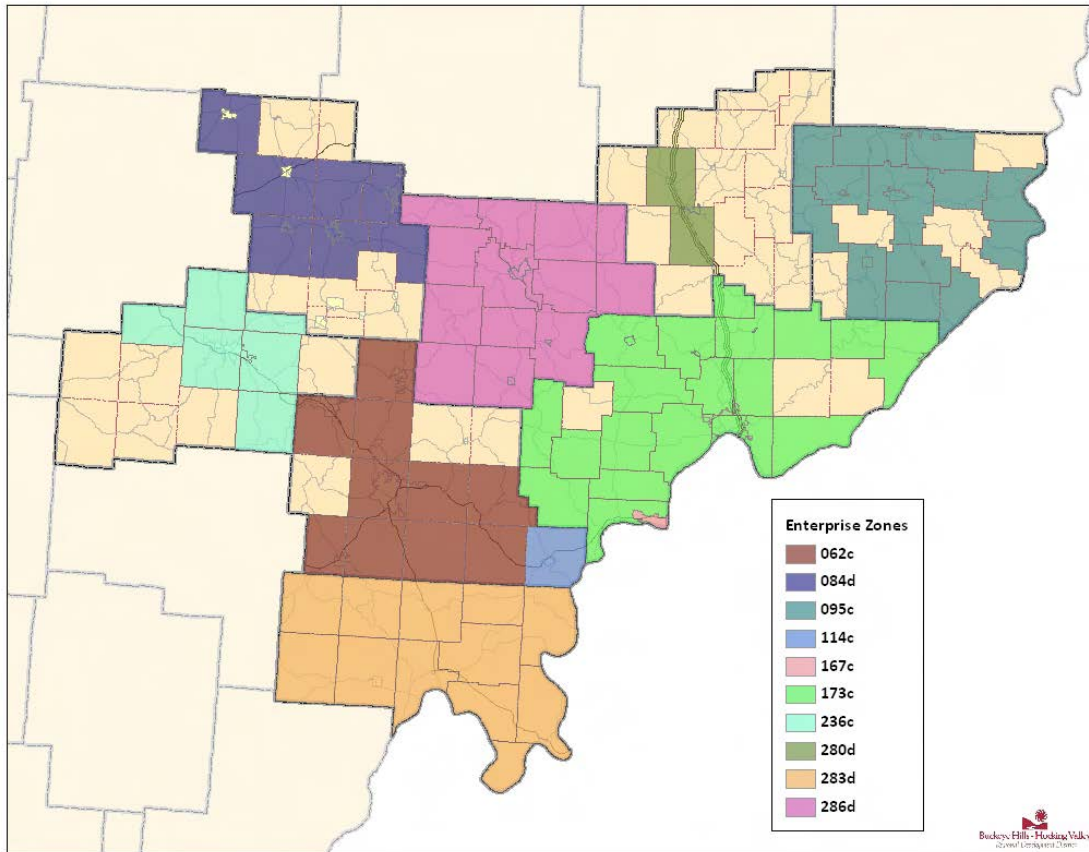
Some of our partners on the Federal level include: the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Small Business Development Centers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Division of Natural Resources, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA), and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), just to name a few.

Partners at the State level include: the State of Ohio (Department of Development, Department of Natural Resources, Governors Regional Offices, Job and Family Services, among others), the Ohio State University, Ohio University, Ohio State University Extension Offices, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance, the Ohio Water Development Authority, and the Ohio EPA.

Our partners at the local level are the most crucial, and fortunately the most numerous. These partners include local universities, the various chambers of commerce, community improvement corporations, port authorities, boards of county commissioners and various county agencies, mayors, township trustees, community organizations, local businesses, and active citizens.

All of the parties listed above are active in the promotion and creation of economic development opportunities in the Buckeye Hills region. This list is not exhaustive and is intended to illustrate the high level of participation Buckeye Hills receives from parties within the region.

One final economic asset at the disposal of local economic development professionals are Enterprise Zones. Enterprise zones are specified geographic areas within a county that offer real and personal property tax exemptions to businesses operating or investing there. There are ten designated enterprise zones in the Buckeye Hills region.



Overall State of the Local Economy

The Buckeye Hills region has not been immune to the deep economic downturn that the United States has been experiencing for the better part of two years. According to recently published information from the Appalachian Regional Commission:

“The employment situation improved slightly in the Appalachian region in the fourth quarter of 2009 as the unemployment rate fell to 9.8%; however, this had much more to do with workers giving up the job search and leaving the labor force altogether, rather than an improving employment outlook.”

While the indicators such as unemployment may show slight improvement for the Buckeye Hills region and the greater Appalachian region in general, these numbers are deceptive. As stated in the quote above, the indicators have improved mainly because

people are giving up on finding employment and permanently removing themselves from the labor force, not because there has been a growth or expansion of employment opportunities.

With this being said, many of our constituents and committee members feel that the Buckeye Hills region has not had a tremendous worsening of economic condition in the past few years, but the surrounding regions that have historically enjoyed much more success and affluence have now ‘come down to our level.’ For some of our counties a monthly unemployment rate between eight and ten percent has been the norm for the better part of a decade; while some of our surrounding counties have suddenly jumped to this level and are having difficulty adjusting to this new circumstance, and the resulting impact.

Members of the committee continue to feel that our region did not benefit as widely 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 brought with it the catastrophic side effects evident in other places (i.e. mass layoffs, major displacement, widespread home foreclosures, etc.) It has been 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 in the recent past. This general caution in lending practices has led to some insulation from the extreme volatilities in the housing market over the past year.

In summary, the overall state and focus of our local economy is still survival. Organizations, especially local governments (counties, cities, villages, and townships), have faced the deep budget cuts necessary to continue providing essential services to citizens. Appropriations and funds from state and federal sources were reduced, drastically in some cases, causing some counties in the region have scale back working and office hours to bare minimums. As businesses in the region continue to struggle, this also causes considerable strain on those agencies dependent on tax revenues. Local parties continue to hold out hope that an economic turn around is in the wings, as some indicators are pointing to a slow and gradual improvement in economic conditions.

Growth Sectors of the Economy

Health Care

According to population estimates from the Ohio Department of Development, our region is expected to have exponential growth in the number of citizens age 60 and over by the year 2030. Some counties are forecasting increases as high as 87 percent over the levels projected for 2005. The region as a whole is expecting an increase of nearly 55 percent from the levels projected in 2005. Despite these projected increases, each of the eight counties in the service area has been designated as a Medically Underserved Area in full or in part by Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). Six counties

have also been designated as a Healthcare Professional Shortage Area in full or in part (Athens and Hocking Counties were not designated).

Population Projections Age 60+							
	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Percent of Change
Athens	8,870	9,770	11,630	12,720	13,870	14,270	60.9%
Hocking	5,510	6,140	6,720	7,440	7,970	8,100	47.0%
Meigs	4,840	5,350	6,140	6,750	7,270	7,700	59.1%
Monroe	3,310	3,710	3,690	3,930	3,720	3,680	11.2%
Morgan	3,470	4,020	4,630	5,220	5,770	6,110	76.1%
Noble	2,470	2,900	3,300	3,880	4,320	4,630	87.4%
Perry	5,650	6,430	7,070	8,170	8,740	9,380	66.0%
Washington	13,550	15,010	16,870	18,790	20,220	20,890	54.2%
Total	49,675	55,340	62,065	68,920	73,905	76,790	54.6%

Based on sheer numbers, local officials are anticipating that the health care sector will continue to grow and provide wide spread employment opportunities for workers within the region. Traditionally, employment in the health care sector has been relatively constant through times of economic downturn, with the current period being no exception. While growth in the general health care sector is expected, we are expecting particularly rapid growth in the field of home based health care. Buckeye Hills is also the parent organization to the local Area Agency on Aging which provides services to seniors in the same eight-county region as the Buckeye Hills development department. Officials at the Area Agency on Aging expect a major rise in the demand for home based health care options as the baby boomer generation enters the retirement years. It has been our organizations’ experience that offering individuals the option to receive medical care in the comfort of their own home is not only extremely cost effective compared to traditional hospital or nursing care, but is also more desirable to the consumer who is receiving those services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has recently released a report detailing the projected growth of the ‘Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides’ sector, projecting that the number of positions would rise from 2,296,000 nationally to 2,944,000 by 2016, an increase of 647,000 jobs, 28 percent of the level in 2006. Of these projected 647,000 jobs, 384,000 of them are projected to be created in the home health aide profession; a staggering increase of 49 percent compared to 2006 levels.

Entrepreneurialism/ Small Business

It is no secret that the Buckeye Hills region, along with most of the Appalachian and Midwestern section of the U.S., has experienced a major downturn in what used to be it’s most prosperous economic sector; manufacturing. As major manufacturing operations in our region have closed or restructured due to financial difficulties, external competition, or even labor issues, many workers have taken it upon themselves to create employment opportunities where no others may exist. Members of our committee feel it is unlikely, although not impossible, to expect that our region will be

attracting the large manufacturing projects that bring with it large job creation numbers. (i.e. A Honda plant producing 1,500 jobs, or other similar operation) Members of the committee in the past have also felt that many of the existing funding programs put too much focus on attracting new jobs, and not enough focus on maintaining and enhancing those jobs we already have. The same can be said for entrepreneurial programs, in the past these programs were not a focus of traditional funding sources, however in the recent times more money and attention has been placed on these programs as they prove to be effective at helping those trying to help themselves through small business.

Energy/ Alternative Energy

In 2006/2007, the EDA funded a very important investment in Hocking County that established the Hocking College Energy Institute. The focus of this institute is to train students in the sciences related to new and developing technologies, as they prepare for new technology jobs in the future. Such training components include, hybrid vehicle repair and technician certification programs, solar technologies, alternative fuel research and testing, installation technician training for the installation of solar, wind, biomass, and hydro equipment, and other related programs. This program was started almost simultaneously as a small group of alternative energy companies settled in Athens County, and another was proposed for Washington County.

Past CEDS committees have had mixed feelings on the alternative/ advanced energy sector and its potential impact on our region. Some members feel this industry is here to stay and we need to align ourselves to best participate with it/in it. Others feel that parties are simply trying to capitalize on this as the latest ‘buzzword’ that helps get otherwise ineligible or low ranking projects funded, or garners media attention. There is a sentiment that our region is working toward a real synergy in the energies field, while others felt that it may not be sustainable enough to continue for the long term, and that we should continue to spread our available project resources should any of these targeted alternative/advanced energy investments fail.

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 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 industries that are prevalent in within our district. A joint report released in 2005 by Deloitte and the Ohio Department of Development noted fourteen economic drivers of the Southeastern region of Ohio, 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”

While this report has been discussed in previous CEDS documents, we feel this still provides an accurate depiction of influential industrial sectors that are active within our region (with the exception of “motor vehicle parts manufacturing”).

The predominantly rural nature of our district (steep elevations, forest cover, flood prone areas, etc.) continues to play a major role in driving the types of investments and developments that take place in the region.

External Trends and Forces

American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

The major external force that manifested itself upon the Buckeye Hills region in the past two year is the federal stimulus program. This program provided the funding for numerous projects of all types (transportation, education, law enforcement, information technology, etc.) to take place on an accelerated schedule compared to those projected by traditional funding programs. Below is a brief table outlining the direct and multi-county allocations received by counties in the Buckeye Hills region as part of the stimulus program. (Note: total in the multi-county allocations column may be significantly higher as multiple counties participated in the same multi county allocations, therefore skewing the overall total.)

2009 Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding		
	Direct Allocations	Multi-County Allocations
Athens	\$21,092,000	\$159,582,000
Hocking	\$9,951,000	\$159,582,000
Meigs	\$8,521,000	\$7,322,000
Monroe	\$4,594,000	\$7,182,000
Morgan	\$11,375,000	\$7,498,000
Noble	\$7,047,000	\$7,182,000
Perry	\$9,359,000	\$5,163,000
Washington	\$9,853,000	\$16,878,000
Total	\$81,792,000	\$370,389,000

For further information on ARRA/Stimulus funding in the Buckeye Hills region, please refer to the official Ohio recovery website at <http://recovery.ohio.gov>.

Traditional Funding

For the past several years, local communities and committee members have expressed a feeling that traditional funding agencies were changing the requirements for project initiatives that are eligible for funding (e.g. only ‘green’ projects, only ‘high tech’ projects) and/or raising the required levels of investment, job creation, job retention, required for such projects. The combination of these factors is making it increasingly difficult for projects from local/rural communities to receive funding on a consistent basis. Members continue to express that while the needs of other areas may have moved on to more advanced topics (e.g. the need for additional fiber optic connectivity, where our region has very little), economic development endeavors could greatly benefit from the continued expansion of basic infrastructure items such as water, sewer, and broadband access. Until these basic needs are satisfied to some degree, it will remain unlikely that this area will be able to support and sustain hi-tech, high growth, high local investment, projects that funding sources are now seeking. Other members continue to express a feeling that some funding sources have program requirements that are simply unrealistic in the current economy and condition of Southeastern Ohio at this time. A local project that will potentially create 30 jobs would be a priority project in any of our counties, while this same project in comparison with other areas of the state may not even ‘hit the radar’ of organizations in Columbus or Washington DC.

Major Investment Losses

During the past two years, the Buckeye Hills has seen two major potential projects be canceled or put on long term delay due to the economic recession. The examples described below are in addition to the general downturn the Buckeye Hills region has been experiencing in the manufacturing sector, which has traditionally been the driving force of our local economy.

American Municipal Power (AMP) had been planning and making initial arrangements to locate a major clean coal/carbon sequestration based electric plant in the Letart Falls area of Meigs County. This project was projected to create 1,600 temporary construction jobs for the area, as well as 150 permanent jobs at the plant. This project was expected to cost \$2.9 billion, bringing with it significant private investment in the local area. Unfortunately this project was cancelled in November 2009 after a long environmental review and permitting process, negative press from environmental groups across the country, and unplanned cost increases. The latest official statement from AMP indicates that this site is still under consideration for development of a smaller, less expensive, natural gas fired power plant facility. The loss of this project was a severe blow to the planned economic development activities in Meigs County, one of the poorest and most rural counties in Ohio.

Washington County also lost a major investment in 2009 as Solsil Inc. put on hold, plans to site and construct a facility that would produce high quality silicon for use in

photovoltaic solar cells used in the solar energy industry. Solsil Inc. had already acquired, through a state financing and incentive package, a 45 acre plot of land in the Waterford area of Washington County, with the intention of constructing a 150,000 square foot manufacturing facility. This project was projected to create approximately 350 new jobs in Washington County over the next three years. This project was expected to cost \$56 million, also bringing with it significant private investment. Due to financial difficulty experienced by Solsil Inc., and its parent company Globe Specialty Metals Inc., this project has been put on hold indefinitely.

Regional Position in the National and Global Economies

As described in previous CEDS documents, the current group felt that the region continues to occupy an important position in the local regional economy as a major supplier of natural resources, raw materials, metals, plastics, and wood products. 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.’

Constituents and 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. The Buckeye Hills region pales in economic comparison to the areas of Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Canton, Akron, Dayton, and Toledo. Major losses in our traditional economic strength areas (primarily the automotive and manufacturing sectors) have done nothing to strengthen our position in the regional, state, national, or global economies.

Economic Development Investments

EDA has been an important partner in economic development endeavors in Southeastern Ohio since the inception of Buckeye Hills in 1968. In total, EDA has funded 119 projects in the region, providing 29,045,206 in direct funding, with total project costs over this period totaling 47,794,803. Below is a breakdown of these investments by county.

(Continued on next page.)

EDA Investments 1968 - 2010			
	No. of Projects	EDA Funding	Total Project Costs
Athens	21	\$5,664,051	\$10,828,355
Hocking	11	\$4,362,673	\$6,581,919
Meigs	10	\$5,411,768	\$8,842,994
Monroe	4	\$3,304,235	\$5,424,850
Morgan	1	\$881,600	\$1,690,000
Noble	4	\$415,200	\$815,000
Perry	8	\$1,996,336	\$4,621,511
Washington	55*	\$6,388,648	\$7,895,026
Multi-County	5	\$620,695	\$1,095,148
Total	64	\$29,045,206	\$47,794,803

The Buckeye Hills region also has numerous buildings and sites currently available for economic development investment. Economic development representatives are responsible for maintaining current listings of available buildings and sites in a searchable online database that is used by the Ohio Department of Development for developing and directing potential business leads. (<http://www.e-procuresite.com/default.asp>) As of February 2010, the current inventory of buildings and sites in the Buckeye Hills region is summarized in the two tables below.

BHHVRDD Available Buildings (Feb 2010)		
	Buildings Available	S.F. Available
Athens	18	230,440
Hocking	14	62,495
Meigs	3	85,600
Monroe	1	18,000
Morgan	8	268,207
Noble	2	309,220
Perry	6	66,018
Washington	43	2,225,010
Total	95	3,264,990

BHHVRDD Available Sites (Feb 2010)		
	Sites Available	Total Max. Acreage Avail.
Athens	27	301.2
Hocking	8	271.8
Meigs	6	546.0
Monroe	3	n/a
Morgan	2	50.0
Noble	4	129.6
Perry	7	452.1
Washington	25	807.9
Total	82	2,558.6

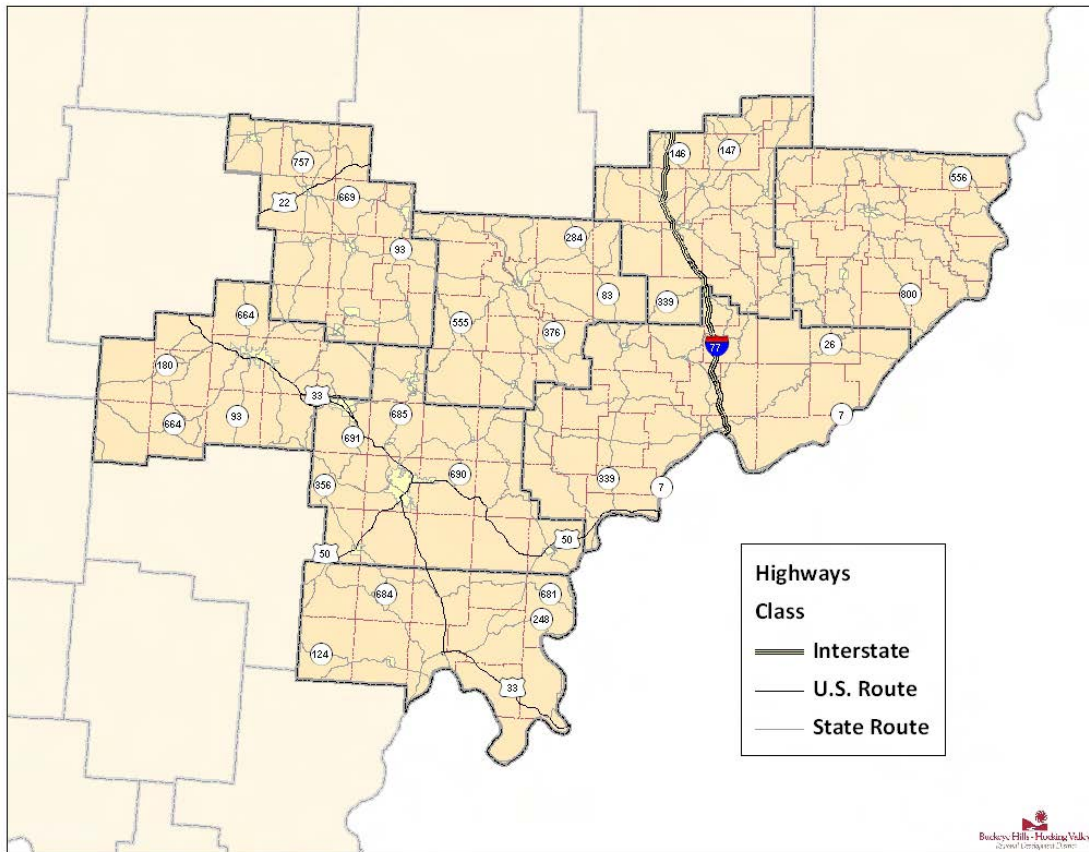
(Note: The total square feet available and total maximum acres available may not be accurate, as not each listing in the database had these values populated. Use these values for reference purposes only. A detailed listing of available buildings and sites is available at http://www.buckeyehills.org/development/ceds_10 or via email or hard copy upon request.)

The Buckeye Hills region historically has had less land that was readily available, of acceptable size and slope, and outside of the 100 year floodplain, than other areas of the state. These factors all contribute to the fact that the Buckeye Hills region historically had lower numbers of business attraction compared to other areas in the

state. (See Chapter 3, Tables 3.15 to 3.25 for details on regional business expansions and private investment survey totals.)

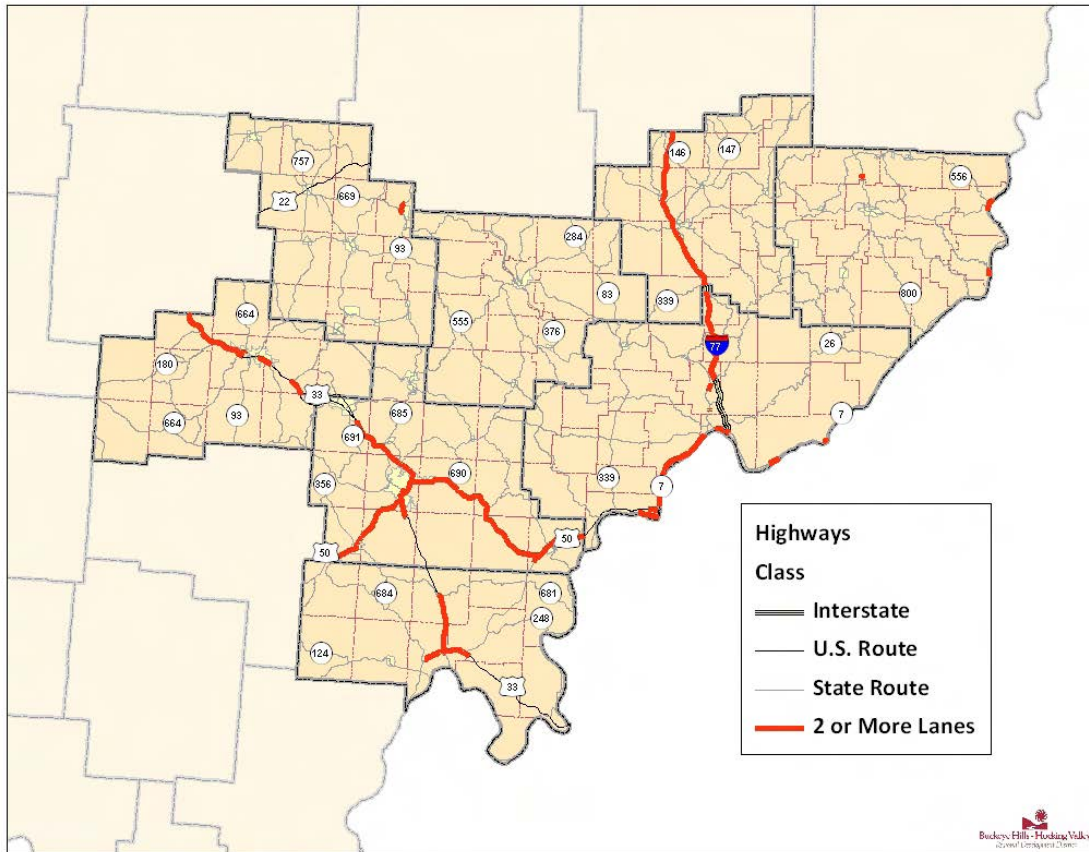
Transportation

Like many other regions in the US, the Buckeye Hills region is dependent on access to multiple modes of transportation for economic success. The main mode of transportation utilized in the region is over the road transport (passenger vehicles, tractor trailers, and other soft wheeled vehicles). The Buckeye Hills region has only one interstate highway, traveling from Marietta in the south, north through Noble County. This interstate is approximately 39.25 miles in length which is .4 percent of the 9,191 total miles of road in the region. (ODOT, 2008) The Buckeye Hills region also contains 1,475 miles of State Routes and 146 miles of U.S. Routes. These roads are generally higher capacity thoroughfares, and compose 17.6 percent of the total road mileage in the region.



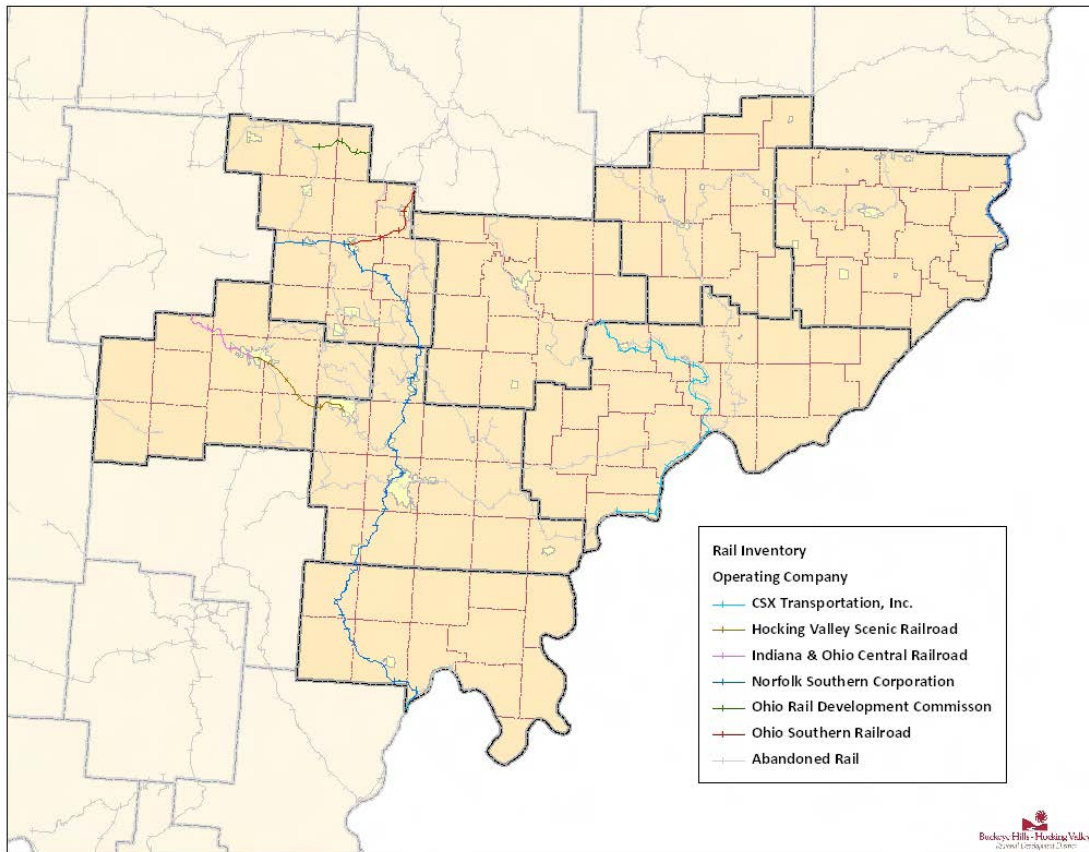
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While ground transportation is vitally important to the Buckeye Hills region, many of the available road ways are two-lane in nature. Of the 9,191 miles of total roadway in the Buckeye Hills region, only 130 miles (1.4 percent) are greater than two lane and/ or divided highway.



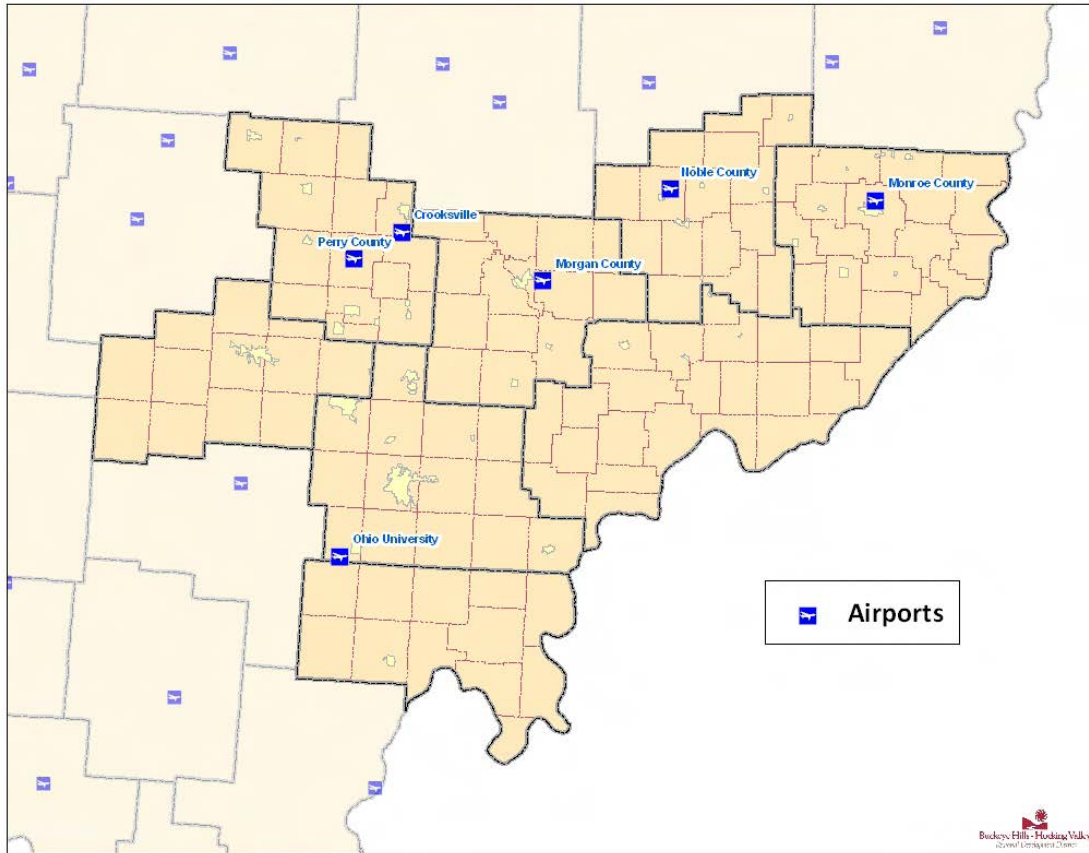
The Buckeye Hills region is also served by a limited amount of active railways. While there are no passenger train services running, other than short excursion trips in Nelsonville, there is a significant amount of cargo transported via train across the district. Much of the cargo carried via rail in the Buckeye Hills region is coal that powers the numerous power plants found in the region. While coal composes the largest portion of cargo found on trains crossing the region, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland has recently unveiled a passenger rail plan funded in part with ARRA funds, commonly referred to in Ohio as the 'three C rail project.' (<http://3cisme.ohio.gov>) The focus of this project is to interconnect the cities of Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati with high speed (79 mph) passenger rail. This network of rail will be part of President Obama's nationally-prioritized Chicago Hub Network. The initial plan for this 265 mile network includes stations in downtown Cleveland, southwest Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Sharonville, Cincinnati, Springfield, and Riverside. While none of the planned stations are located in the Buckeye Hills region, we feel strongly that this system would

provide greatly improved mobility for citizens of Ohio, and would yield benefits for the Buckeye Hills region.



The Buckeye Hills region does not contain a major airport with regular passenger service. The district has six smaller airfields/ local airports scattered throughout the region. The nearest passenger air service is located at the Wood County airport (approx 8 miles south of Marietta) while major air service is available from airports in Columbus (126 miles), Canton (108 miles), and Charleston West Virginia (89 miles).

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The Buckeye Hills region is strategically poised on the north bank of the Ohio River which runs south from Monroe County to Meigs County. This major river is and has been responsible for carrying cargo from places such as Wheeling West Virginia and Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, south to Cincinnati Ohio, and on to the Mississippi river. Today the Ohio River continues to ferry cargo, primarily coal, as it travels to transfer points along the Ohio. Here it is transferred to or from trucks and trains as it makes its way to power plants within the district and across the region.

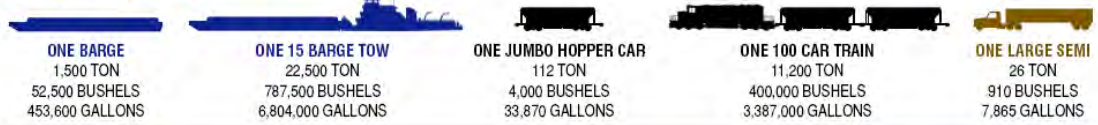
To capitalize on the resource that is the Ohio River, the southeastern Ohio port authority has recently received funding from the Ohio DOT to conduct a container on barge study. The purpose of this study is to determine if there is capacity to support the establishment of ports on the Ohio River with the intent of ferrying shipping cargo containers to and from land based transport (trucks and trains). Initial studies have shown that one flat bottom river barge can carry the cargo equivalent of 13.4 jumbo hopper rail cars or 58 tractor trailers. This capacity has the potential to save companies significant amounts of money, while simultaneously having a beneficial effect by lessening pollution and road infrastructure damage caused by heavy truck traffic. (See graphic below, Iowa Department of Transportation, 2008.)

Compare...

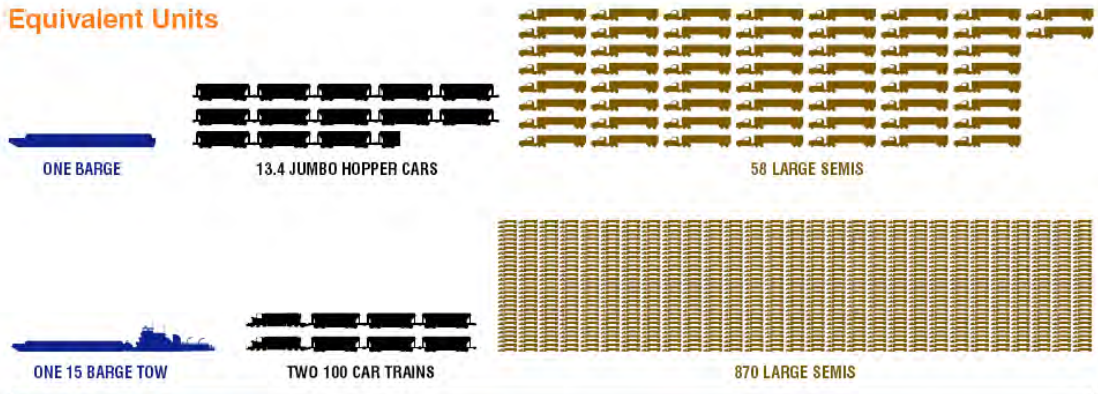


Source: Iowa Department of Transportation - 800 Lincoln Way - Ames, IA 50010 - 515-231-1520

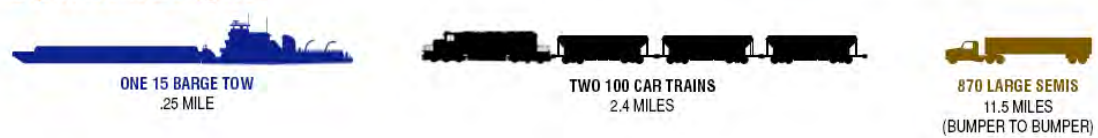
Cargo Capacity



Equivalent Units



Equivalent Lengths

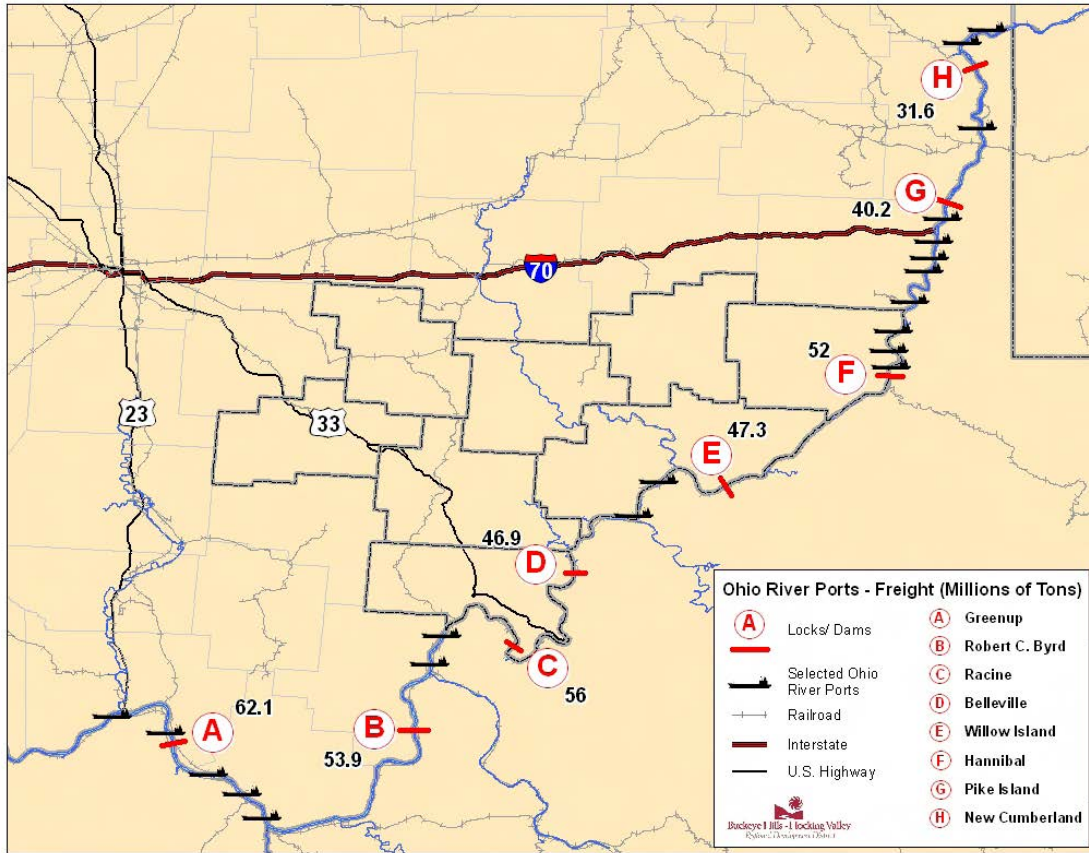


FM 644 3-6-08

The information in this graphic shows the vast potential in shipping cargo containers via barge on the Ohio River.

According to a Southeast Ohio Multi-Modal Transportation Report completed by the Ohio Department of Transportation in 2009, 202.2 million tons of freight passed through locks and dams located on the Ohio River in the Buckeye Hills region. A map of selected ports and selected tonnages can be seen below. The cargo listed is primarily coal, leaving the potential for other cargo relatively untapped.

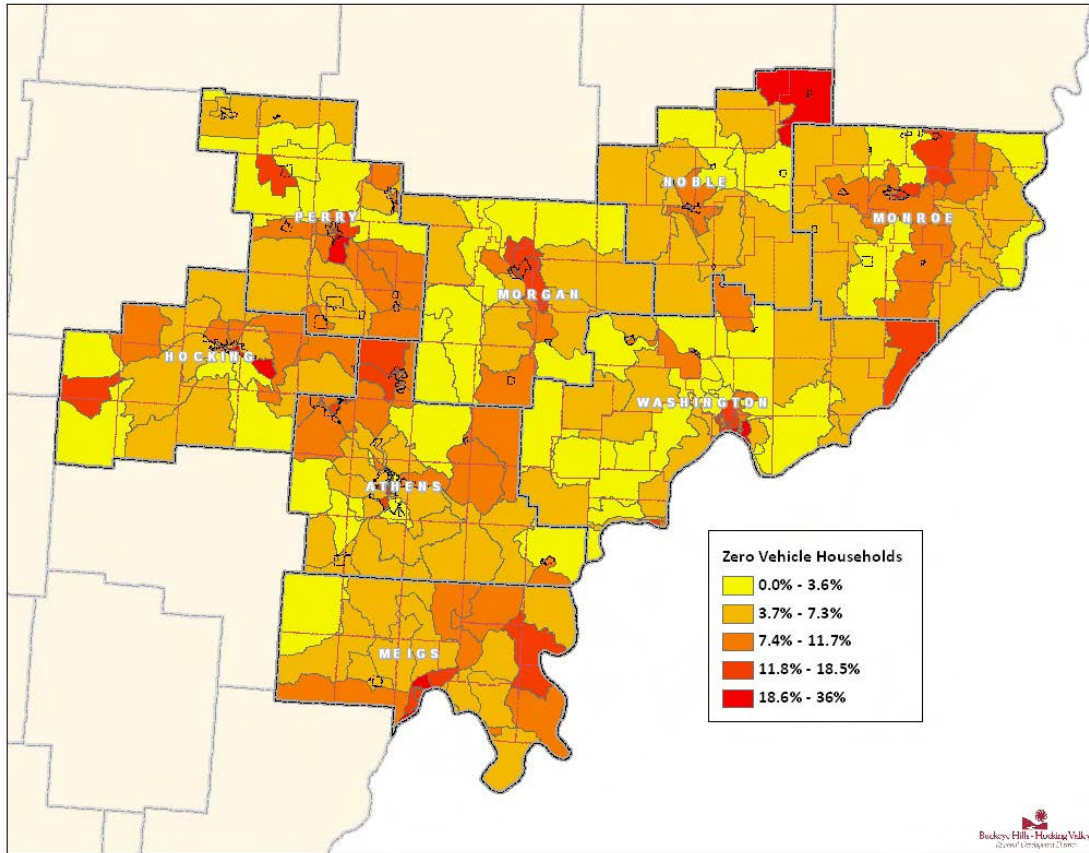
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Transportation Access

The main population centers of the Buckeye Hills region are generally served by Ohio state routes, as well as local and municipal roads. The region does contain a small amount of limited access highway (US routes, interstate). Realizing that our region is primarily served by over the road vehicles, and seeing that public transportation options are limited at best, those who do not have access to a personal vehicle are at a severe disadvantage. According to data from Census 2000, 7.98 percent of all households in the region do not have a vehicle available for use of the occupants.

(Continued on next page.)



Transportation Planning

Transportation planning in the Buckeye Hills region has traditionally been handled by the Ohio Department of Transportation District 10 and District 5 Offices. Only one county in our district is covered by a Transportation planning organization; Washington County. The Wood-Washington-Wirt Interstate Planning Commission is a ‘Metropolitan Planning Organization’ housed within the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council (Parkersburg, WV), and serves Washington County in Ohio and Wood and Wirt Counties in West Virginia. The boundaries of this planning commission also coincide with those of the Parkersburg- Marietta Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). For all other counties in the region, transportation planning is handled by the Ohio Department of Transportation. The ODOT District Offices focus on planning along state routes and maintain more than 1,200 bridges, 4,000 lane miles of state highway and 15,000 culverts in District 10 alone. Unfortunately, the District offices do not become involved in regional transportation planning that is focused on areas outside of the state routes they serve.

Since its inception in 1968, Buckeye Hills has been generally uninvolved in the transportation planning process. Members of Buckeye Hills’ staff are currently serving on the Wood-Washington-Wirt Interstate Planning Commission and participate in their

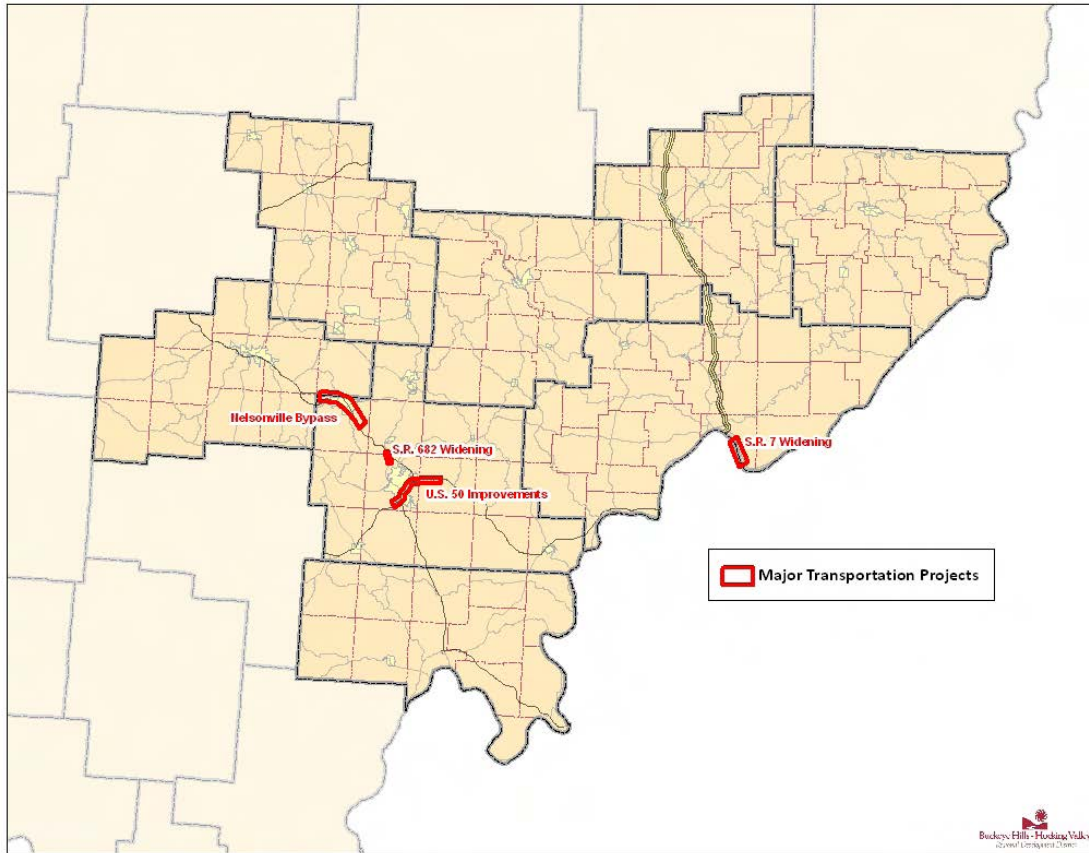
regular transportation planning meetings. Buckeye Hills also maintains a positive relationship with our local ODOT office (District 10 – Marietta), and work well together when required, mainly acting as a liaison between the District 10 staff and the elected official(s) of a specified project area.

To assist and improve the coordination between transportation agencies and local communities, many states utilize Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and Rural Planning Organizations (RPO). Individual states regulate the creation, existence and funding of these Rural Transportation Planning Organizations. Nearly 30 states use RPOs or similar organizations to conduct regional transportation planning. Each state has creates a unique work program for these organizations, and utilized contracts between the state department of transportation and the RTPO to execute these work plans. The Executive Director of Buckeye Hills serves as Ohio’s representative on RPO America (Rural Planning Organizations of America), the national professional association for rural transportation planning professionals, practitioners, policymakers and other stakeholders. Rural transportation planning is an emerging field, and Buckeye Hills has been actively partnering with national MPOs and RPOs to educate state and federal leaders on the benefits of rural transportation planning organizations in general and specifically the added benefits to all regions of the state if RPOs were designated and funded in Ohio. The leadership of Buckeye Hills feels that the local interests of citizens would be better served, and local participation improved throughout the transportation planning process if regional organizations were coordinating the rural transportation planning activities.

Transportation Projects

The Buckeye Hills region has several major transportation projects that have recently gotten underway, or have recently been completed. Those projects are located on the map below and described in the following paragraphs.

(Continued on next page.)



Nelsonville Bypass

The Ohio Department of Transportation is in the process of constructing a major bypass of U.S. 33 around the City of Nelsonville in Athens County; this project is locally referred to as the ‘Nelsonville Bypass.’ This project will eliminate a major ‘bottleneck’ on U.S. 33, where the 4 lane highway merges in to a 2 lane road as it passes through the city. The Ohio DOT has identified this as a major route carrying significant interstate traffic between South Bend and Fort Wayne Indiana to Columbus Ohio and Charleston West Virginia. This project was first recommended and studied for viability during the 1950’s and 1960’s. The bypass was first designed and proposed for construction in 1975, but was never implemented for various reasons. After becoming a priority again earlier in this decade, this project was moved in to the construction phase as parte of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This project is estimated at \$173 million, will create 4,848 jobs, and is scheduled to be completed by July 31, 2013.

State Route 7 Widening – Reno Ohio

The Ohio Department of Transportation is also completing a widening project on Ohio State Route 7, southeast of Marietta Ohio. An initial phase of this project completed in the fall of 2008, added additional travel lanes to this route starting in or near the city limits, and moving to the area of the current project. The current project will end near the Kardex facility outside of Reno Ohio. This project eliminates bottlenecking and

traffic safety concerns as State Route 7 enters Marietta through an area heavily invested with commercial retail operations. This project is estimated to cost \$14.5 million and was initially scheduled to be completed by fall 2009, and is now scheduled to be completed by fall 2010.

State Route 682 Widening – The Plains Ohio

The Ohio Department of Transportation is completing a widening project on Ohio State Route 682, northwest of Athens Ohio. This route has been identified as a link from U.S. 33 north of Athens, to areas west of Athens, providing an important cut-through for local traffic. The existing two lane road was over capacity causing safety issues when accessing local businesses and homes. This project is estimated at \$3.44 million and is scheduled to be completed by September 2010.

U.S. Route 50 Repair – Athens Ohio

The Ohio Department of Transportation is completing a rehabilitation and improvement project on U.S. Route 50 east of Athens Ohio. This route is a major corridor for travelers moving through southeastern Ohio and West Virginia. Road surfaces will be rehabilitated, as well as ramp repairs, bridge repairs, and guard rail improvements. This project is estimated at \$13.8 million and is scheduled to be completed by October 31, 2010.

Economic Cluster Analysis

According to the EDA, industry clusters are concentrations of competing, complementary, or interdependent firms and industries that do business with each other and/or have common needs for talent, technology, and infrastructure. The prevalent feeling among funding agencies and economic development professionals is that identifying, supporting, and catalyzing these clusters provides advantages for the regional economy. These clusters illustrate the regions advanced ability, strength, and presence in a particular industrial sector or business.

According to recent data, there are a total of 1,594 businesses in the Buckeye Hills region with ten or more employees. According to this same data a total of 65,607 employees are working in these identified businesses. The total sales volume for all identified was \$12,501,207,000. This business information was purchased from a third party vendor, InfoUSA, during March 2010. (Note: Buckeye Hills is not responsible for the accuracy of this data; this information is used for general analysis and reference purposes only.)

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The following clusters have been selected based on the above referenced EDA criteria, as well as their overall employment, contribution to the local economy, growth potential/vitality, or perception within the region.

Manufacturing

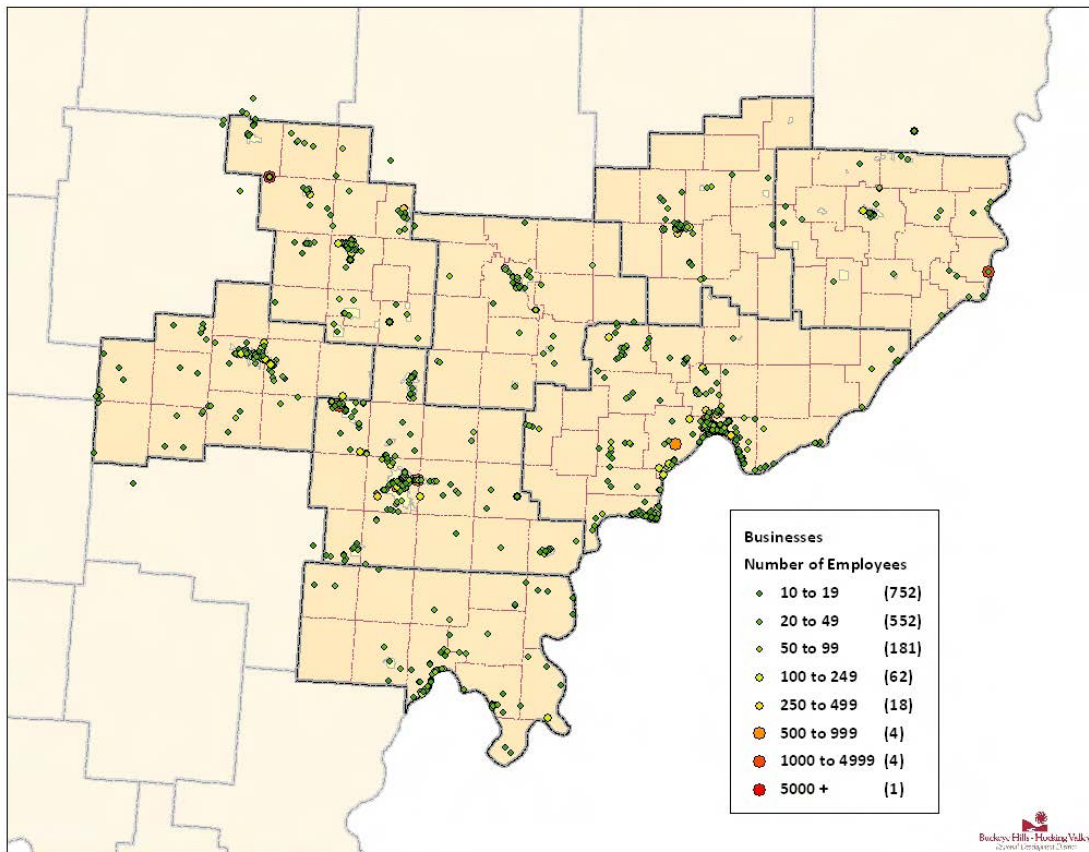
Health Care

Education

Metals/Polymers

Natural Resource Production

Below is a map illustrating all 1,594 identified businesses in the Buckeye Hills region, along with their reported employment levels. Please note that all further discussions concerning clusters in this chapter are referring to businesses with 10 or more employees only.



Health Care Cluster

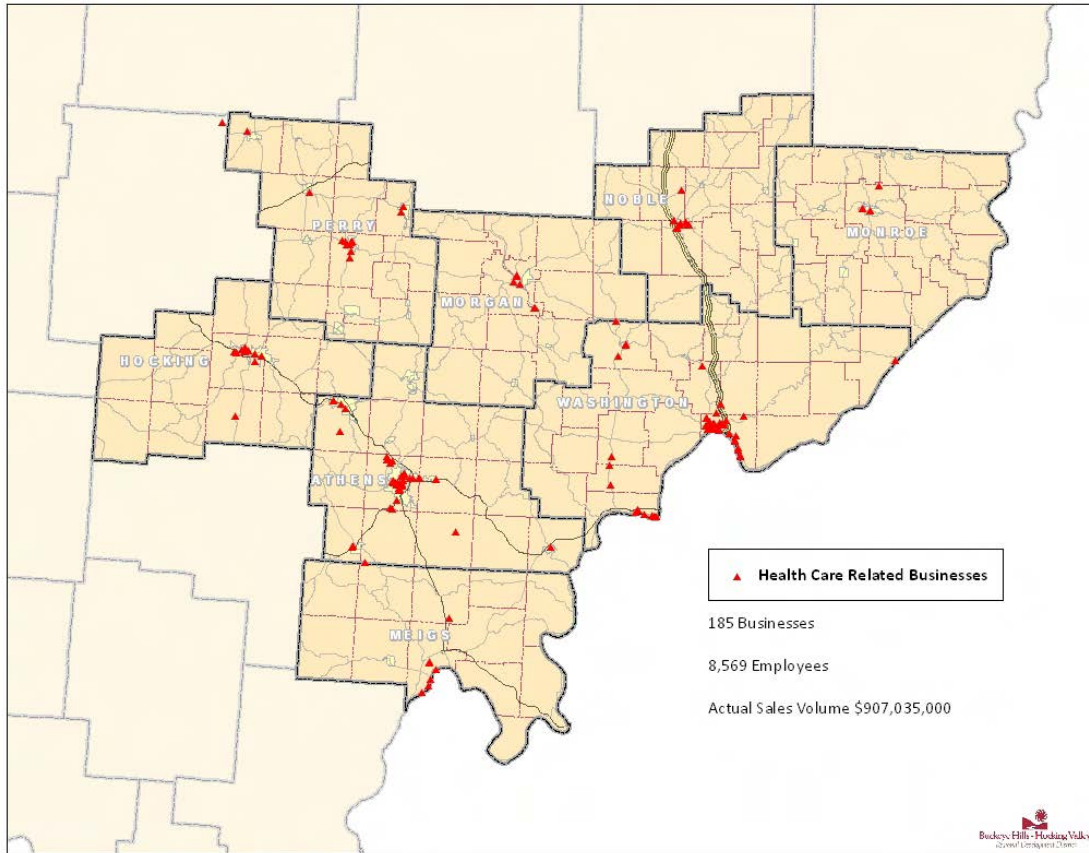
Health Care and Health Care related businesses are a major contributor to the regional economy in the Buckeye Hills region. According to recent data there are 185 health care related businesses in the eight-county region, employing 8,569 people, and generating a cumulative sales volume of \$907,035,000. According to recent employment numbers released by the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information, a total of 107,600 people were employed in the Buckeye Hills region during 2009. Comparing that data with the health care cluster employment numbers here, approximately 7.9 percent of all employed persons were working in this cluster.

The table below illustrates the businesses selected as a part of this cluster. The selections were based on their listed primary SIC description.

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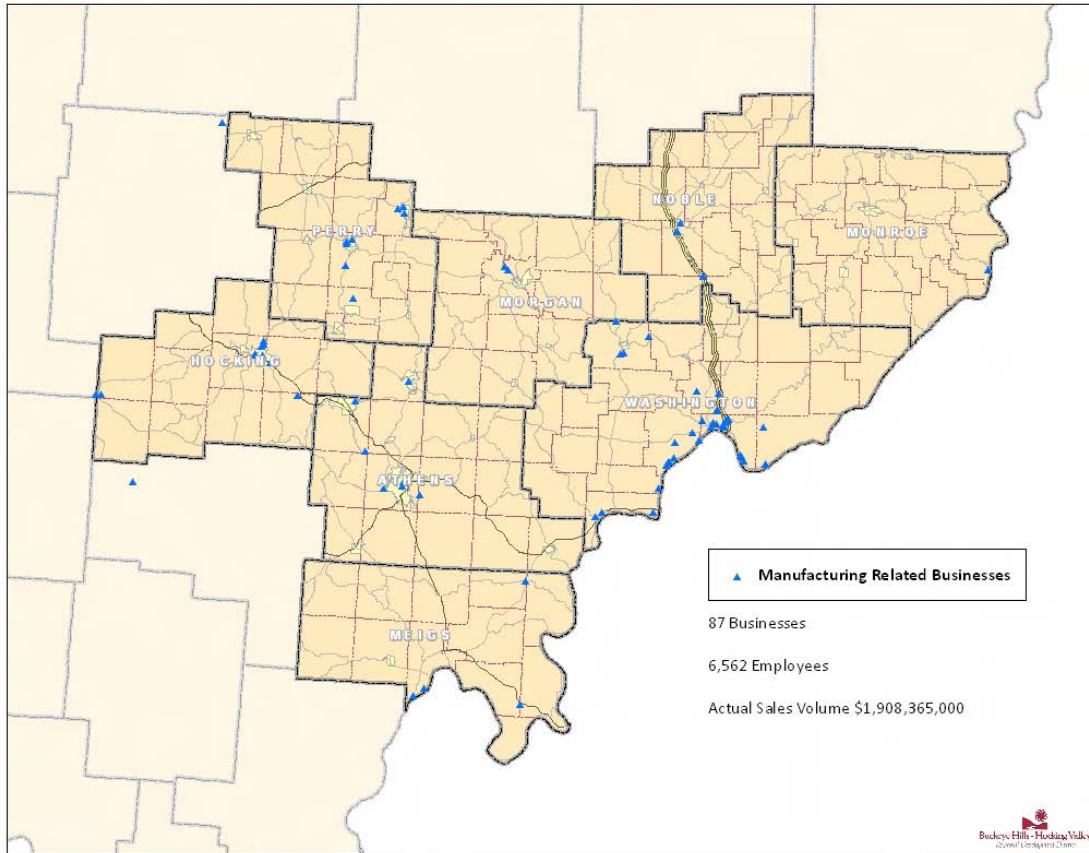
Cluster Analysis - Health Care Related Businesses			
SIC Description	SIC Code	Employees	Sales Volume
Adult Care Facilities	805903	56	\$3,920,000
Ambulance Service	411902	181	\$15,928,000
Child Care Centers-Consultants	835104	34	\$1,428,000
Child Care Referral Services	832236	10	\$0
Child Care Service	835101	145	\$6,090,000
Clinics	801104	349	\$106,445,000
Cognitive Disab.-Dev. Disab. Svcs.	833104	70	\$0
Convalescent Homes	805902	225	\$15,750,000
Dentists	802101	127	\$18,415,000
Dialysis	809203	11	\$2,376,000
Emergency Minor Medical Facilities/Svcs	809307	40	\$6,080,000
Family Planning Information Centers	832203	34	\$0
Handicapped Services & Organizations	839909	80	\$0
Health Services	809907	80	\$4,735,000
Home Health Service	808201	701	\$37,854,000
Hospital Equipment & Supplies (Whls)	504712	33	\$19,734,000
Hospitalization Plans-Medical & Surgical	632402	20	\$23,760,000
Hospitals	806202	2,210	\$234,260,000
Laboratories-Medical	807101	237	\$45,741,000
Mental Health Services	806301	360	\$17,010,000
Nurses-Practitioners	804907	11	\$1,331,000
Nursing & Convalescent Homes	805101	1,348	\$91,190,000
Optometrists Od	804201	51	\$6,936,000
Oxygen-Medical (Whls)	504722	13	\$7,774,000
Pharmacies	591205	491	\$79,788,000
Physical Therapists	804918	245	\$8,596,000
Physicians & Surgeons	801101	613	\$121,987,000
Physicians & Surgeons-Emergency Service	801105	25	\$7,625,000
Physicians & Surgeons Equip & Supls-Mfrs	384104	29	\$9,338,000
Rehabilitation Services	833102	456	\$0
Residential Care Homes	836105	236	\$0
Surgical Centers	809308	26	\$3,952,000
Waste Removal-Medical	495315	12	\$3,012,000
X-Ray Apparatus & Supplies (Whls)	504720	10	\$5,980,000
Totals (185 Businesses)	-	8,569	\$907,035,000

The map below illustrates where in the district these businesses are found. According to the map the geographic location of these businesses is as follows: 56 in Athens County, 18 in Hocking County, 8 in Meigs County, 7 in Monroe County, 7 in Morgan County, 11 in Noble County, 15 in Perry County, and 62 in Washington County.



Manufacturing Cluster

The traditional economic powerhouse of the Buckeye Hills region, and much of Southern and Central Ohio, has historically been the manufacturing sector. Southeastern Ohio is rich with natural resources such as coal, natural gas, and lumber. Having an abundant supply of natural resources and raw materials, coupled with the availability of the Ohio River for shipping purposes, has created a natural fit for manufacturing operations. In recent times as competition from outside (other counties, other states, other regions) and international locations has become more intense, our eight-county region has been experiencing an overall decline in manufacturing. While still vitally important to the economic viability and labor force composition of our region, its overall contribution to the regional economy has decreased when compared to historical levels. Recent data shows that 6,562 people were employed in the manufacturing cluster illustrated here. According to employment figures released by the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information, a total of 107,600 people were employed in the Buckeye Hills region during 2009. Comparing that data with the manufacturing cluster employment numbers, we can conclude that approximately 6 percent of all employed persons were working in this cluster.



Businesses that compose the manufacturing cluster were selected based on their listed primary SIC description. A table detailing and summarizing these selections is below.

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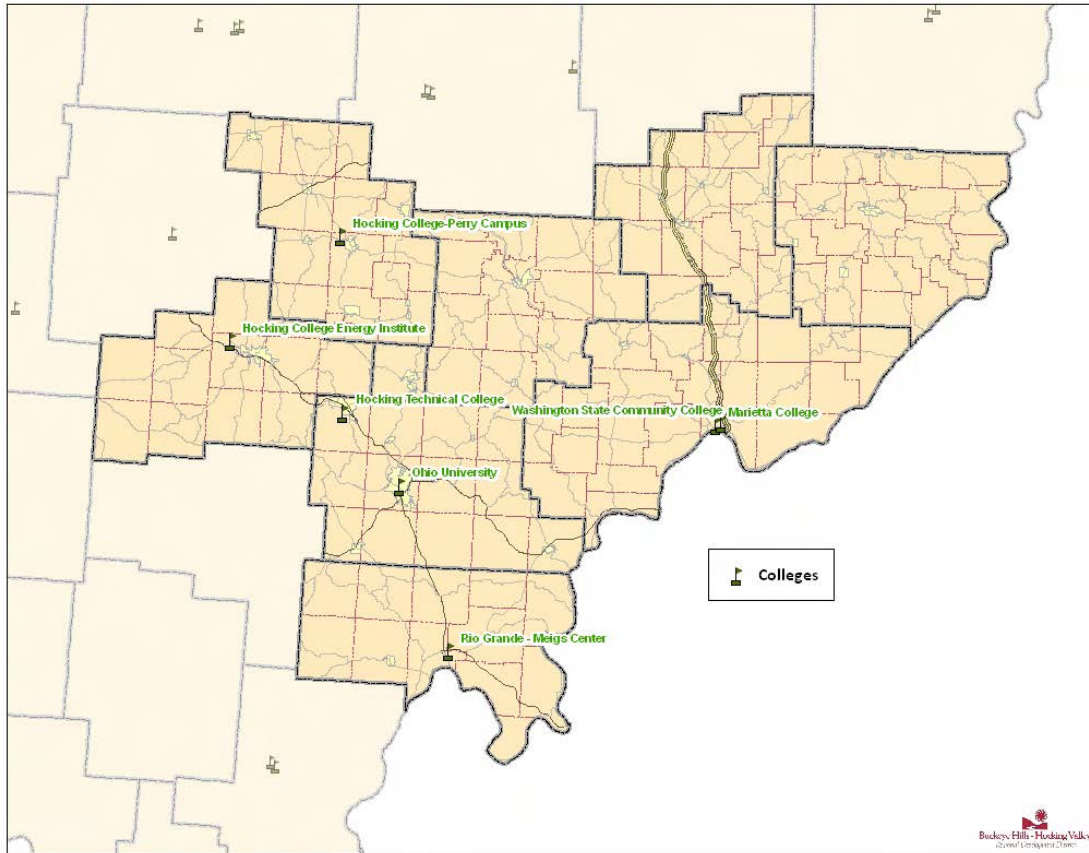
Cluster Analysis - Manufacturing Related Businesses			
SIC Description	SIC Code	Employees	Sales Volume
Aircraft Equipment Parts & Supls-Mfrs	372802	250	\$79,500,000
Aluminum Fabricators (Mfrs)	335501	1,000	\$0
Asphalt & Asphalt Products-Manufacturers	295101	15	\$11,010,000
Auto Seatcovers Etc-Material/Eqpt-Mfrs	239901	24	\$11,160,000
Automobile Parts & Supplies-Mfrs	371401	350	\$130,900,000
Ball & Roller Bearing (Mfrs)	356298	250	\$75,250,000
Batteries Wholesale & Mfrs	506352	66	\$50,358,000
Bolts Nuts Screws Rivets/Washers (Mfrs)	345298	150	\$39,600,000
Bottlers (Mfrs)	208601	50	\$38,550,000
Buildings-Pre-Cut Prefab & Modlr-Mfrs	245202	11	\$2,409,000
Castings-Ferrous Metals (Mfrs)	332501	25	\$5,725,000
Castings (Mfrs)	336903	35	\$9,170,000
Ceramic Products-Industrial (Mfrs)	329902	47	\$24,158,000
Chemicals-Manufacturers	289905	68	\$37,332,000
Clay Refractories (Mfrs)	325598	75	\$22,800,000
Coated & Laminated Paper Nec (Mfrs)	267298	0	\$0
Conveyor Parts & Supplies (Mfrs)	353503	22	\$5,764,000
Copper Foundries (Mfrs)	336698	450	\$71,100,000
Cut Stone & Stone Products (Mfrs)	328198	50	\$8,250,000
Elec Equip-Internal Comb Engines (Mfrs)	369498	30	\$11,220,000
Electric Supplies-Manufacturers	362101	91	\$23,205,000
Fabricated Pipe & Pipe Fittings (Mfrs)	349898	10	\$2,250,000
Farm Equipment-Manufacturers	352304	25	\$10,375,000
Ferrites (Mfrs)	326401	120	\$24,840,000
Filters-Air & Gas-Manufacturers	356406	40	\$70,850,000
Fluid Milk (Mfrs)	202698	0	\$0
Food Products & Manufacturers	209903	40	\$16,200,000
Garden & Lawn Equipment & Supls-Mfrs	352403	17	\$7,582,000
Gas-Ind & Medical-Cylinder & Bulk-Mfrs	281301	35	\$29,820,000
Grinding Wheels (Mfrs)	329101	50	\$15,800,000
Grinding-Precision & Production (Mfrs)	347910	24	\$6,216,000
Hardwood Dimension-Flooring Mills (Mfrs)	242698	40	\$8,040,000
Household Vacuum Cleaners (Mfrs)	363501	100	\$42,700,000
Industrial Inorganic Chmcls Nec (Mfrs)	281998	10	\$4,880,000
Industrial/Coml Machinery/Equip Nec (Mfrs)	359998	30	\$7,350,000
Lime-Manufacturers	327498	50	\$18,650,000
Lumber-Manufacturers	242101	26	\$6,448,000
Machine Shops (Mfrs)	359903	12	\$2,004,000
Machinery-Sawmill (Mfrs)	355306	10	\$2,290,000
Manufacturers	399903	190	\$36,860,000
Measuring/Controlling Devices Nec (Mfrs)	382998	410	\$111,930,000
Metal Goods-Manufacturers	349903	20	\$4,980,000
Minerals/Earths-Ground Or Treated (Mfrs)	329598	10	\$4,620,000
Molds (Mfrs)	354405	20	\$3,520,000
Motor & Generator-Manufacturers	362198	54	\$13,770,000
Newspapers (Publishers/Mfrs)	271101	180	\$31,320,000
Oil Field Equipment-Manufacturers	353301	35	\$10,605,000

Cluster Analysis - Manufacturing Related Businesses (Cont.)			
SIC Description	SIC Code	Employees	Sales Volume
Paint Varnish & Allied Products (Mfrs)	285198	15	\$9,525,000
Pallets & Skids-Manufacturers	244801	108	\$16,416,000
Paper-Manufacturers	262101	249	\$166,830,000
Physicians & Surgeons Equip & Supls-Mfrs	384104	29	\$9,338,000
Pipe Bending & Fabricating (Mfrs)	349803	501	\$70,000,000
Plastics-Extruders (Mfrs)	308904	70	\$15,890,000
Plastics-Raw Mtrls/Powder/Resin-Mfrs	282101	227	\$244,479,000
Porcelain-Electrical-Supplies (Mfrs)	326498	150	\$31,050,000
Powder Coatings (Mfrs)	347916	35	\$9,065,000
Pressed/Blown Glass/Glassware-Nec (Mfrs)	322905	135	\$33,345,000
Printers (Mfrs)	275202	85	\$10,400,000
Publishers-Periodical (Mfrs)	272102	12	\$4,812,000
Resins-Manufacturers	282105	75	\$80,775,000
Sawmills (Mfrs)	242102	80	\$19,600,000
Screen Printing (Mfrs)	275902	15	\$2,325,000
Service Industry Machinery Nec (Mfrs)	358998	40	\$13,280,000
Sheet Metal Fabricators (Mfrs)	344403	12	\$2,460,000
Smelters & Refiners-Base Metals (Mfrs)	333902	0	\$0
Steel-Structural (Mfrs)	344106	57	\$8,664,000
Typesetting (Mfrs)	279102	50	\$8,750,000
Totals (86 Businesses)	-	6,562	\$1,908,365,000

Education Cluster

Another major sector of employment in the Buckeye Hills region is the education cluster. Our region is home to eight post secondary institutions which provide excellent educational opportunities for our youth and excellent employment opportunities for our residents. Data released by the Ohio Department of Education in 2006 shows that our region has 101 total public and private school facilities composed of 29 high schools, 12 middle schools, 59 elementary schools, and one junior secondary school.

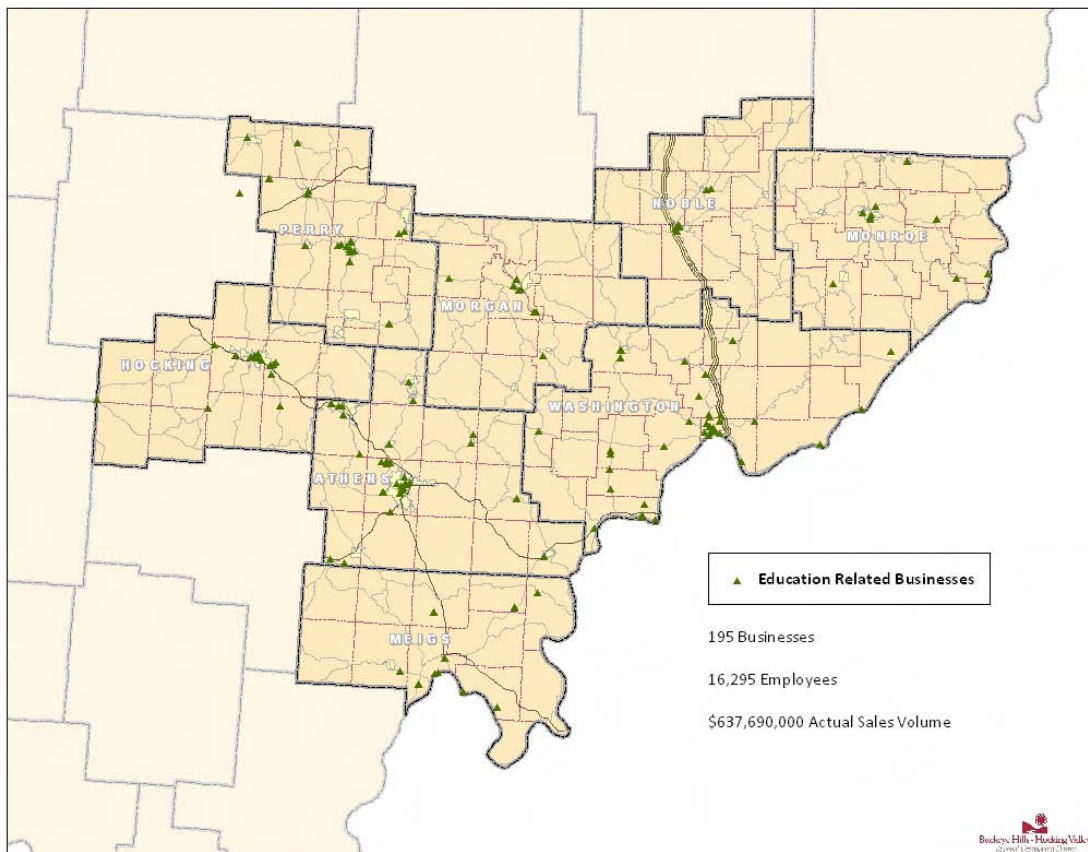
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Labor market information shows that 16,295 people were employed in the education cluster detailed here. According to employment figures released by the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information, a total of 107,600 people were employed in the Buckeye Hills region during 2009. Comparing that data with the manufacturing cluster employment numbers, we can conclude that approximately 15 percent of all employed persons in the Buckeye Hills region were working in this cluster.

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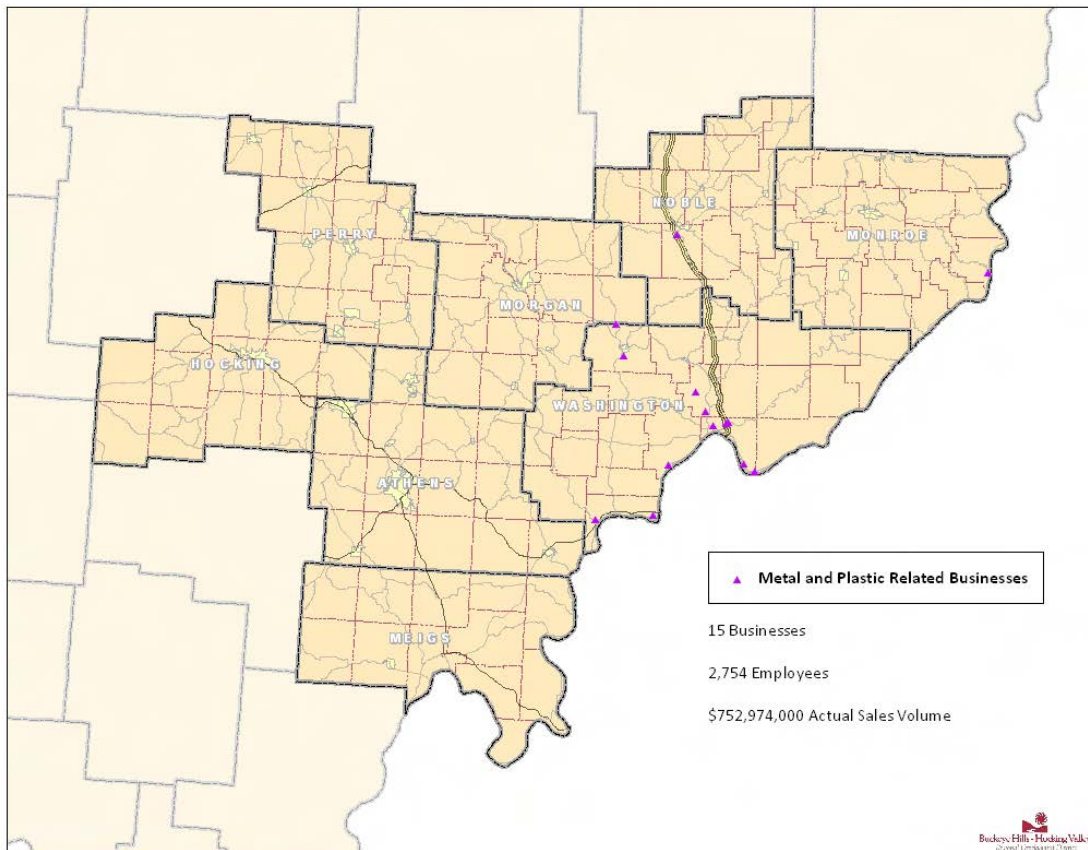
Cluster Analysis - Education Related Businesses			
SIC Description	SIC Code	Employees	Sales Volume
Aircraft Schools	829917	15	0
Child Care Service	835101	145	\$6,090,000
Dancing Instruction	791101	10	\$430,000
Fraternities & Sororities	864107	50	\$0
Libraries-Institutional	823109	10	\$0
Libraries-Public	823106	392	\$0
Religious Schools	821101	86	\$0
School & College Information	829903	0	\$0
Schools	821103	9,277	\$0
Schools With Special Academic Education	821107	165	\$0
Schools-Medical	822108	250	\$0
Schools-Nursery & Kindergarten Academic	835102	243	\$10,206,000
Schools-Universities & Colleges Academic	822101	5,562	\$620,964,000
Youth Organizations & Centers	832222	90	\$0
Totals (195 Businesses)	-	16,295	\$637,690,000



Metals and Polymers Cluster

Although not as large as the other clusters detailed here, the metals and polymers industry has emerged as a strong component of the Buckeye Hills regional economy. With a strong background in raw materials and energy production, the natural progression for our local economy was to attract manufacturing operations. As traditional manufacturing businesses have been waning in the recent past, the metals and polymers sectors have remained relatively strong. The existence of these operations has not been without struggle; Ormet Aluminum in Hannibal Ohio has been struggling with labor and utility issues for years. In 2009 the operation in Hannibal was reduced dramatically, causing massive layoffs. This had traditionally been the county's largest employer and source of tax revenue by a wide margin. The economic repercussions of this downsize were devastating to the local economy. As evidenced in earlier discussion the manufacturing sector remains strong, however it is a shadow of it's former self.

According to recent data only 15 businesses are operating in this cluster however their total sales volume remains significant, generating approximately \$753 million for the regional economy. These 15 businesses are also employing approximately 183 people each.



The industrial sectors that compose this sector are listed in the table below.

Cluster Analysis - Metal and Plastic Related Businesses			
SIC Description	SIC Code	Employees	Sales Volume
Aluminum Fabricators (Mfrs)	335501	1,000	\$0
Castings-Ferrous Metals (Mfrs)	332501	25	\$5,725,000
Copper Foundries (Mfrs)	336698	450	\$71,100,000
Ferrites (Mfrs)	326401	120	\$24,840,000
Plastics-Extruders (Mfrs)	308904	70	\$15,890,000
Plastics-Fabrics,Film-Etc Producer	308102	300	\$118,200,000
Plastics-Raw Mtrls/Powder/Resin-Mfrs	282101	227	\$244,479,000
Plastics-Research & Consulting	873416	40	\$0
Resins-Manufacturers	282105	75	\$80,775,000
Scrap Metals & Iron (Whls)	509313	35	\$18,305,000
Secondary Smelting & Refining-Nonferrous	334198	400	\$171,200,000
Sheet Metal Fabricators (Mfrs)	344403	12	\$2,460,000
Smelters & Refiners-Base Metals (Mfrs)	333902	0	\$0
Totals (15 Businesses)	-	2,754	\$752,974,000

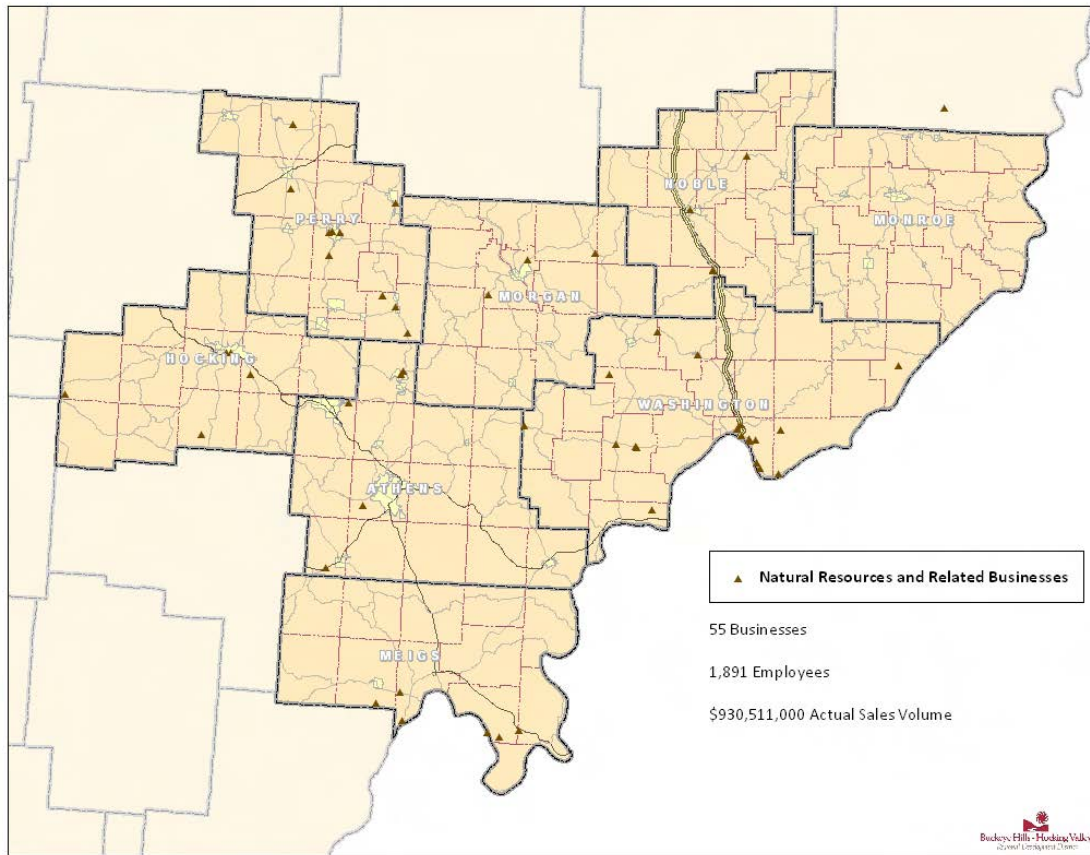
Labor market information shows that 16,295 people were employed in the education cluster detailed here. According to employment figures released by the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information, a total of 107,600 people were employed in the Buckeye Hills region during 2009. Comparing that data with the manufacturing cluster employment numbers, we can conclude that approximately 2.5 percent of all employed persons in the Buckeye Hills region were working in this cluster.

Natural Resource Production

Natural resource production has always been a significant part of the regional economy of southeastern Ohio due to the overall rural nature of the area. While this cluster is also relatively small in terms of number of businesses, 55, this cluster does not lack in economic impact, as nearly one billion dollars is generated for the local economy.

Labor market information shows that 1,891 people were employed in the natural resources related cluster detailed here. According to employment figures released by the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information, a total of 107,600 people were employed in the Buckeye Hills region during 2009. Comparing that data with the manufacturing cluster employment numbers, we can conclude that only 1.7 percent of all employed persons in the Buckeye Hills region were working in this cluster.

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A table listing the SIC descriptions chosen for this cluster is below.

(Continued on next page.)

Cluster Analysis - Natural Resources and Related Businesses			
SIC Description	SIC Code	Employees	Sales Volume
Beef Cattle-Except Feedlots	21202	10	\$460,000
Coal & Coke-Retail	598902	0	\$0
Coal Mining & Shipping	122102	442	\$217,464,000
Drilling & Boring Contractors	178102	82	\$20,500,000
Farms	19101	10	\$1,780,000
Gas Companies	492501	15	\$17,760,000
Gas Transmission Companies	492201	13	\$12,350,000
Gasoline & Oil-Wholesale	517210	25	\$121,725,000
Lumber-Manufacturers	242101	26	\$6,448,000
Lumber-Retail	521142	51	\$13,158,000
Lumber-Wholesale	503109	135	\$114,640,000
Minerals/Earths-Ground Or Treated (Mfrs)	329598	10	\$4,620,000
Mining Companies	149901	452	\$121,136,000
Oil & Gas Exploration & Development	138203	179	\$27,745,000
Oil & Gas Producers	131101	75	\$103,275,000
Oil Field Service	138905	50	\$10,000,000
Oil Well Drilling	138102	72	\$15,264,000
Oil Well Logging & Perforating	138910	18	\$3,384,000
Oil Well Services	138912	57	\$8,835,000
Oil-Crude-Purchasing	679201	17	\$11,917,000
Oils-Fuel (Whls)	517206	10	\$48,690,000
Sand & Gravel (Whls)	503211	62	\$29,760,000
Sawmills (Mfrs)	242102	80	\$19,600,000
Totals (15 Businesses)	-	1,891	\$930,511,000

As new techniques for oil and gas exploration are being used to explore and access previously untapped oil and gas reserves in the Marcellus Shale areas of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia; we anticipate the possibility of job and investment growth in the natural resources cluster in the near future. Other areas of the eastern United States are already experiencing a boom, especially in natural gas exploration. Studies indicate that eastern Ohio likely also contains large amounts of previously undiscovered deeply contained natural gas. Experts differ on the amount of and ease by which those resources may be harvested, but their potential cannot be denied.



CHAPTER FIVE - VISION

Regional Vision

As Buckeye Hills carries out community and economic development activities across an eight county region in southeastern Ohio, the following objectives are held as our core goals and values. These goals are consistent with previous CEDS documents and are shared across all program areas operated by Buckeye Hills. These objectives are:

That local communities create diverse economies which provide sustainable employment and living wages;

That local economic development officials and industry leaders meet to identify potential problems and create solutions, thereby 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;

That Local communities provide sufficient levels of public infrastructure; education; and social services in order to strengthen the quality of life for residents.

Regional Goals

During our analysis processes, the CEDS committee, citizens, and partners of Buckeye Hills who regularly participate in programmatic offerings, assisted us in developing goals and strategies for the region. The remainder of this chapter will be devoted to discussing and elaborating on those goals and the ways which Buckeye Hills will work to achieve those objectives.

These are short and long term goals for the region, with varying methods of achieving them. Each goal will be followed by a short discussion detailing the problem and outlining our strategy for working toward a solution.

Goal 1 – Increase Broadband Deployment

As we progress in to the 21st century, access to high speed internet has become absolutely critical to the way we gather information, do business, and enjoy our private lives. It is no exaggeration to state that the availability of broadband when pursuing economic development opportunities has become as important as water and sewer service when it comes to site selection. This is the primary reason the increased deployment of broadband is the top regional goal. Without an expansion of this service in to our counties, and especially in to the rural areas, it will become increasingly difficult for local parties to land outside economic development when other sites with the service available are being considered.

The Buckeye Hills region has a much lower than average broadband adoption rate for those residents who do have service available. According to 2009 data from Connect Ohio, the eight-county Buckeye Hills region has an adoption rate of 27.75 percent; the average for the state is 55 percent.

Strategy 1 – Support the ongoing efforts of Connect Ohio to bring expanded broadband availability and increased computer adoption rates to Ohio

Strategy 2 – Support broadband mapping efforts being conducted by Connect Ohio/ Connected Nation/ Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP).

Strategy 3 – Support local efforts to gather service and deployment information for presentation to current service providers in order to present a case for additional investment.

Outcome 1 – Increase the number of households in the region for which broadband is available by 5 percent.

Outcome 2 – Increase in the overall broadband adoption rate in the region by 5 percent.

Outcome 3 – Completed and regularly updated broadband service availability mapping for the region.

Goal 2 – Improve the Condition and Availability of Local Infrastructure

The Buckeye Hills region has traditionally lagged behind other areas of the state and the nation when it comes to infrastructure availability and expansion. Our rural nature, rugged topography, and low population are all factors that contribute to this deficiency. That being said, it is vitally important that Buckeye Hills and all local governments in our jurisdiction fully utilize the funding programs that are currently in place in order to ensure that existing infrastructure remains in optimal working condition. Often times in the past the Buckeye Hills region has lost potential economic development investments due to lacking or inadequate infrastructure available to support the intended investment.

Strategy 1 – Continue to develop, foster, and promote economic development investment opportunities across the region.

Strategy 2 – Raise awareness of funding programs administered and operated by Buckeye Hills, as well as state and federal partners.

Strategy 3 – Increase the awareness of local infrastructure assets through the use of GIS mapping technologies.

Outcome 1 – Level or increased funding in the programs that are the most utilized to fund infrastructure projects in our region; ARC, CDBG, EDA, and LTIP.

Outcome 2 – Meet with existing and incoming county commissioners and other elected officials to appraise them of Buckeye Hills programming and how we can partner to improve their communities.

Outcome 3 – Three additional communities participating in the Buckeye Hills GPS Asset Management Program.

Goal 3 – Adopt a Regional Message and Mindset

Buckeye Hills has been operating at a regional level since inception in 1968. Our programming is geared toward improving the quality of life for the citizens of our district, regardless of what county, township, city, or village they live in. As we work to improve the economic conditions of the region through the completion of projects and other investments, we often see negative cooperation or competition cropping up among partners.

Strategy 1 – Advocate for the creation of a regional economic development organization with the main purpose of advertising and promoting available sites and locations within our region.

Strategy 2 – Advocate for increased cooperation between localities within the region with the intent of attracting additional economic development opportunities.

Strategy 3 – Ensure that Buckeye Hills is promoting a regional development message and strategy that all our local partners can participate in and benefit from.

Outcome 1 – Secure funding to create a new economic organization with the sole purpose of promoting available sites and locations within the Buckeye Hills region.

Outcome 2 – Create new marketing materials that convey a single message promoting the benefits and advantages of expanding or establishing a business in southeastern Ohio.

Goal 4 – Increase Emphasis on Entrepreneurial and Small Business Activities

The Buckeye Hills regional economy has traditionally been based on manufacturing, natural resources, and raw material production. Recently the regional economy has been hard hit by the economic downturn experienced throughout the U.S. This has led to the reduction, or in some cases complete elimination, of traditional operations such as aluminum mills and other major employers. This problem did not start with the U.S. recession; previous damage to the local economy was done by out of state and foreign labor competition. Recent events only served to exacerbate the declining conditions. Based on the highly competitive market conditions across the region, the state, and indeed the world, it seems unlikely that the Buckeye Hills region will attract the types of large job producing, single source manufacturing type projects that were prevalent in the past. Despite this admission among our partners, a disproportionate amount of effort is still being spent seeking out and attempting to attract these types of projects. Based on local trends and current information, more emphasis needs to be placed on entrepreneurial and small business oriented types of activities. As more and more individuals become displaced from traditional employment outlets, many of these people are turning to small business as their new method of employment.

Strategy 1 – Increase emphasis and awareness of existing programs that provide resources to small businesses.

Strategy 2 – Increase the amount of resources available for small business and entrepreneurial programs in the region.

Strategy 3 – Work with local economic development professionals to ensure that not only are new employment opportunities attracted, but existing jobs are enhanced.

Outcome 1 – Close 5 Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) loans in the next three years.

Outcome 2 – Buckeye Hills staff will participate in, and promote, workshops for entrepreneurs and small businesses as they are held across the region.

Goal 5 – Improve the Overall Perception of Southeastern Ohio

The Buckeye Hills region of southeastern Ohio, along with the rest of the Appalachian region, has traditionally lagged behind other areas in the country in terms of employment, income, and educational attainment. These realities have led to a negative perception of this region and its people. Our goal is to tell the story of southeastern Ohio, show the strengths of the region and its people, and use our resources to improve the overall quality of life. Moving forward, Buckeye Hills plans to become increasingly involved in transportation planning, planning for clean energy development, and planning related to improving the physical environment. Efforts and insights Buckeye Hills can inject in to these areas will only serve to improve the perception of southeastern Ohio in Columbus, Washington D.C., and beyond.

Strategy 1 – Tell the story of southeastern Ohio, detailing the strength and quality of our communities, the resilience of our populous, and the advantages we offer those seeking a new home for their family or business.

Strategy 2 – Support new comprehensive planning initiatives that combine the areas of transportation, health care, economic development, energy, and environment; such as the ‘Livable Communities’ initiative.

Strategy 3 – Support, develop, and fund successful projects that capitalize on the strengths of our people and our businesses while catalyzing our local economies.

Strategy 4 – Emphasize the natural beauty, historical nature, and high quality of life offered by the eight counties in the Buckeye Hills region.

Outcome 1 – Expand and continue the use of the agency web presence at www.buckeyehills.org as a place to share pertinent information about our region and our programming with potential partners across the region, the state, and the world.

Outcome 2 – Conduct regular meetings with Congressional representatives in order to apprise them of the positive things happening in our region, as well as the areas where additional assistance is needed.

Outcome 3 – Partner with ODOT, the Area Agency on Aging, and other parties to successfully implement the initial stages of the ‘Livable Communities’ initiative.



CHAPTER SIX – ACTION PLAN

Action Plan

All communities in the Buckeye Hills region work within the constraints of limited time and resources. Local communities, funding agencies, and private parties will need to allocate resources to various programs and projects in order to achieve the development strategies listed in this document. This chapter will cover the implementation stage of planning, and the identification of activities, projects, and programs that will begin in fiscal year 2010, and continue through fiscal year 2011 and beyond.

2010 CEDS Projects

The BH-HVRDD staff maintains a continuing dialogue with local communities to address local priorities and potential projects. During the spring of 2010, the development department staff mailed, emailed, and faxed, project surveys to the county and local governments, chambers of commerce, community improvement corporations, and economic development professionals.

The CEDS survey requested that local communities list projects that are expected to be developed and implemented in the next several years. We advise local parties to submit their projects for the CEDS listing even if they are only lightly considering EDA as a funding agency. This list will be updated **every year**, and projects **will not** carry over to subsequent years. All projects must be submitted for inclusion in the current CEDS year.

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 of identified potential projects.

Project Prioritization Criteria

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.

Table 6.1 Ranked Project List 2010								
Rank	Project Name	County	Jobs Created or Retained	Scope of Project	Goal Relationship	Environmental Impact	Distress Level	Total Score
1	AEP Lands	Mult-County	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Drug Development and Commercialization	Athens	20	20	20	10	10	80
2	Meigs County Industrial Building	Meigs	20	15	15	10	10	70
	Ingenuity Center	Washington	20	20	20	10	0	70
3	MAHLE Plant Purchase	Noble	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Twp. Rd. 209 Improvements	Morgan	20	15	15	10	10	70
	Canaanville Sewer Project	Athens	15	15	15	10	10	65
	Athens to Albany Corridor Sewer Project	Athens	15	15	15	10	10	65
	McConnelsville Sewer Separation	Morgan	15	15	15	10	10	65
	SR 60 North Water/Sewer Ext.	Morgan	15	15	15	10	10	65
4	Noble County Industrial Park	Noble	20	15	15	10	0	60
	Incubator/ Light Manufacturing	Hocking	20	15	15	10	0	60
	WSCC Health Sciences Building	Washington	20	15	15	10	0	60
	Marietta Regional Sewer Project	Washington	20	15	15	10	0	60
5	Noble County Enterprise Building	Noble	15	15	15	10	0	55
	Matamoros Water System Upgrade	Washington	15	15	15	10	0	55
6	Ohio Riverfront Park (Belpre)	Washington	5	20	15	10	0	50

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. One project from the list above is preparing to submit an EDA public works funding application.

(Note: The following section outlines the programs and projects scheduled to be undertaken in the next year as they correspond with the CEDS regional vision and related goals. Projects and activities from the previous year are listed in Chapter Seven - Evaluation. Some of the activities listed below are a continuation of a previously existing project or program.)

Goal 1 – Increase Broadband Deployment

Connect Ohio

Buckeye Hills will continue to participate in the planning and mapping activities currently being undertaken by the staff of Connect Ohio. Buckeye Hills staff has been actively working with counties as they prepare technology related plans and projects to serve local constituents. These plans include wireless broadband deployment plans, computer adoption plans, and efforts to identify potential locations for community computing centers such as local libraries and community buildings. Buckeye Hills will also continue to host local meetings as needed and requested by Connect Ohio staff.

Buckeye Hills Broadband Committee

During mid 2009 Buckeye Hills formed a broadband committee with the goal of helping to expand the deployment of high speed internet services to the rural areas of the Buckeye Hills region. This committee reports to the executive committee of Buckeye Hills and is made up of local officials and private individuals with technical expertise or professional experience that can be utilized by local communities as they work to increase the deployment and adoption of broadband services across the region.

The Connecting Appalachia Initiative

Buckeye Hills will continue to provide support for the Southern Ohio Health Care Network project being developed by the Reid Consulting Group, now know as ‘The Connecting Appalachia Initiative.’ This project is working to expand on an existing pilot program first funded by the FCC. This initial project is providing high speed internet connectivity to over 200 health care facilities in the 32 Appalachian counties in Ohio. The proposed next phase of this project would provide connectivity to additional health care facilities, as well as local governments, industrial parks, and private citizens. The proposed project is composed of three phases, and utilizes multiple deployment technologies, including fiber and wireless to provide middle and last mile services to users. This project was denied funding in the first round of stimulus applications, and has been resubmitted for the second round. This project was also recently submitted for consideration in the ‘Google Fiber for Communities’ program.

Goal 2 – Improve the Condition and Availability of Local Infrastructure

West Malta Water Project

Buckeye Hills will assist 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 and allow for future expansion with the construction of a new storage tank and booster station. The estimated cost of the project is \$4,150,500, and construction began in September 2007. As of this report,

construction is complete on the main line extension, and work continues on low-to-moderate income tap installations. The project is expected to be completed by July 2010.

Noble County Sanitary Sewer Collection

Buckeye Hills will assist the Noble County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant that will service the South Acres, Maple Heights, Florence and Slaters areas of Noble County. The project will provide 266 homes with improved sewer services. The cost of this project is estimated at \$6,700,000. The project involves the installation of approximately 40,935 linear feet of sewer lines. This project will promote positive community growth. Contracts have been awarded and construction is currently underway.

Syracuse Racine Sewer District

Buckeye Hills will assist the Syracuse Racine Sewer District in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program financing for a project that will extend sewer services to 45 households. This project will also allow for the rehabilitation of the existing wastewater collection and treatment system, and includes the installation of pump stations and manholes. The cost of this project is estimated at \$3,944,000. The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funds for the Syracuse Racine Sewer Project. Environmental Review work has been completed, with bid packets released in February 2010. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2010.

Village of Racine

Buckeye Hills will assist Village of Racine in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to replace waterlines thus eliminating a health hazard. The estimated cost of the project is \$844,820. The project involves the replacement of 9,860 linear feet of waterline 95 households will be effected. The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funds for the Village of Racine Project. Environmental Review work has been completed; bids have been submitted and are currently under review. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2010.

Washington County Riverview Sewer Project

Buckeye Hills will assist the Washington County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant that will service the Riverview area of Washington County. The project involves the installation of approximately 7,738 linear feet of sewer lines and services approximately 121 households. This project will promote positive community growth. The cost of this project is estimated at \$402,700. The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funds for the Washington County Riverview Sewer Project. Environmental Review work has been completed and bids for this project have been accepted. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2010.

Village of McConnelsville

Buckeye Hills will assist the Village of McConnelsville in administering ARC funding that will finance a project to reline sanitary sewer lines within the village. This project calls for the installation of 1,500 linear feet of sewer lines that will service four businesses. The cost of this project is estimated at \$239,100. The environmental review process is currently underway. Once the environmental review activities are completed the bidding process will begin. Construction on this project is not expected to begin until summer 2010.

Tuppers Plains Water District

Buckeye Hills will assist the Tupper Plains Water District in administering a CDBG Water & Sewer Grant that will service the Tuppers Plains and Chester areas of Meigs County. This project calls for the installation of 54,860 linear feet of sewer lines, one booster station, and one generator. These items will provide quality water service to an area which contained wells that regularly tested positive for E. Coli bacteria. The cost of this project is estimated at \$1,050,009. Environmental review activities are completed, bids have been awarded, and construction on this project is currently underway. This project will be completed by September 2010.

Washington County Formula - 2008

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2008, assisting the grantee by assuring that the four projects within Washington County, and the one project for the City of Belpre comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners. Buckeye Hills staff will continue administering the 2008 Washington County Formula Grant which includes the following activities: three projects for two fire departments including the purchase of materials for the construction of a fire house, a new septic system, and the purchase of related equipment. Other activities include the purchase of multiple items of equipment for a senior center in a city and home/building repair within county. The total project cost for the referenced projects will be approximately \$451,911.

Washington County Formula - 2009

Buckeye Hills will serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2009, assisting the grantee by assuring that the projects within Washington County comply with funding requirements, checking for compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations, participating in the bidding process for contracts and attending pre-construction conferences, completing status reports, consulting with independent auditor at time of final audit, and agreeing to reply to

funding agency inquiries to the status of all activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners. Buckeye Hills staff completed the CDBG application for 2009, and is still administering several activities from this project. Total funding was secured in the amount of \$175,000, to be used for the following activities: a planning project; sidewalk improvements, public service; community center; fire protection facilities & equipment; and fair housing activities for the county. Total project costs are estimated at \$269,659.

Washington County Formula – 2010

Buckeye Hills will also serve as the administrator of the Washington County CDBG Formula Program for FY'2010, assisting the grantee by assuring that the projects within Washington County 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. Pre applications for this program are due to Buckeye Hills in April. Buckeye Hills must submit the selected pre-applications to the Ohio Department of Development in June 2010.

State Capital Improvement/Local Transportation Improvement 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. 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. Applications for funding round 25 are due in August 2010.

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. As of this report, Buckeye Hills staff has assisted the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council in rating applications and activity coordination. Funding round 6 has been submitted, while round 6b applications are due in Columbus in April 2010. Applications for these rounds have already been received and reviewed by the committee. Round 7 applications are due in October 2010.

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. Applications for the next funding round will be due in summer 2010.

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. Applications for the next

round of funding are due to Buckeye Hills April 1, 2010, with selected applications due in Columbus May 3, 2010.

City of Athens Circle Drive Access Road Project

Staff will assist the City of Athens in providing .21 miles of roadway improvement to existing businesses and the new Hickory Creek Continuing Care Facility near the City of Athens Ohio. This access road will also allow access to additional properties with development potential in this area. This project is expected to create 115 jobs. A funding application was submitted to ARC in March 2010. Construction on this project is scheduled to begin in summer 2011.

Nelsonville Business Incubator Construction Improvements and Job Retention

Staff will assist the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet) construct critical upgrades to their current Nelsonville facility to ensure the retention of EDmap, their anchor tenant. ACEnet has other tenants who are considering relocating to this facility once improvements are made, keeping them from relocating outside of Appalachia. This project is projected to retain 114 existing jobs while creating up to 170 jobs within the next five years. A funding application was submitted to ARC in fall 2009, construction on this project is estimated to begin in summer 2010.

PCC Airfoils Expansion

Staff will assist the Village of Crooksville in a project that will make improvements to land that borders the expanded PCC Airfoils facility near Crooksville. This project includes the installation of 837 square feet of sidewalk, 165 linear feet of curbing, 1,022 tons of parking lot aggregate, and one catch basin. This project is expected to retain 200 existing jobs, with the potential to create 100 new positions. Construction on this project is scheduled to begin in April 2010.

American Reinvestment and Recovery 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 any future rounds of 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 ensure 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.

Goal 3 – Adopt a Regional Message and Mindset

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The Staff will continue to annually update the CEDS document and improve the CEDS process. Buckeye Hills is anticipating the 2011 CEDS document will be an annual report based on this current CEDS document. This is 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 updated for 2011. The CEDS advisory committee, formed from local economic development experts, local business leaders, elected officials, and other local participants, will meet to discuss issues currently facing the district. It is anticipated that the 2011 CEDS Annual Report will be due in May or June of 2011.

Regional Project Clearinghouse

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.

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.

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 73 local development districts encompassing the 420 Appalachian counties in the United States. Buckeye Hills Executive Director Misty Casto is the Ohio representative on the DDAA board and is also chair of the DDAA Training Committee. As well as currently planning training events for the DDAA and its members, Buckeye Hills has been heavily involved in planning the DDAA GIS Training Conference for the past 4 years. Buckeye Hills staff will continue to work with representatives of other Local Development Districts under the banner of the DDAA in order to improve the awareness and effectiveness of LDDs across the Appalachian region of the United States.

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. agencies, and economic development professionals from across the district.

Data Center totals from July 1, 2009 to March 30, 2010 are as follows:

Organization	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Government	109	82.0%
Business	12	9.0%
Comm. Org/ Non. Prof.	7	5.3%
Acad./ Research	3	2.3%
Priv. Citizen	2	1.5%
Media	0	0.0%
Totals	133	

Type of Request	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Other GIS Map	63	47.4%
Misc.	27	20.3%
Community Prof.	18	13.5%
Income	9	6.8%
Census Maps	7	5.3%
Population	5	3.8%
Labor Force	4	3.0%
Totals	133	

Government organizations continue to be the most frequent type of organization requesting data, composing over 80% of all requests received.

“Other GIS Maps” which includes custom GIS maps and related spatial data is the most frequently requested type of information from the BH Data Center, composing nearly half of all requests received.

GIS Enhancement Project

Buckeye Hills will continue to implement work items from the April 2009 GIS Enhancement Project funded by the Ohio Governors Office of Appalachia and EDA. This work plan includes training communities to use GPS units to complete GIS data collection projects, creating and posting online GIS mapping viewers, and providing expanded GIS assistance to local communities. All work items related to this project will be fully implemented and completed by September 30, 2010.

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.

Goal 4 – Increase Emphasis on Entrepreneurial and Small Business Activities

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.

NADO Creative Financing

The Executive Director of Buckeye Hills has been asked by NADO to participate on an invitation only panel that will be working to identify current barriers and opportunities

for making substantial improvements to existing federal business development finance programs, including EDA, USDA, HUD, SBA and ARC. Invitees will also be working to identify noteworthy practices, identify new trends, identify innovations in federal business development finance programs, identify new tools, recommend new programs, and formulate new policies that are needed at the federal level. These recommended changes will ensure that regional and local business development finance intermediaries have the organizational, programmatic and professional expertise, to be more effective resources for entrepreneurs and business leaders. This retreat is being held during April 2010 in Cooperstown, New York.

Enterprise Appalachia

Buckeye Hills will continue to support the overall efforts of Enterprise Appalachia as they work to attract new and expanding businesses to the Appalachian region of Ohio. Buckeye Hills will continue to partner with, and provide data to, the staff of Enterprise Appalachia on an as needed or as requested basis.

Goal 5 – Improve the Overall Perception of Southeastern Ohio

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.

Long Term Comprehensive Planning/ Livable Communities

Buckeye Hills will continue to build upon its capacity for comprehensive planning, as we work towards merging the planning efforts for transportation, energy, and economic development. The CEDS document will continue to play a key role in determining development activities and goals for the region as we move forward in to a new planning paradigm. Buckeye Hills is fully committed to participating in the upcoming Livable Communities effort currently before the U.S. Congress. Buckeye Hills staff has already identified local partners who have agreed in theory to participate in this activity.

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.

Census 2010

Buckeye Hills will continue to cooperate and collaborate with the United States Census Bureau as they complete the survey and return phase of Census 2010. Buckeye Hills will provide office space and support to Census Bureau personnel as they coordinate local data collection efforts. The Buckeye Hills office has been designated as an official Census Questionnaire Center where local residents can meet with Census officials regarding questions they may have about their Census form.

Muskingum Valley Health Centers Malta Facility

Staff will assist the Muskingum Valley Health Center in constructing a 12,900 square foot building with 25 treatment rooms in the Village of Malta, Morgan County. Morgan County is currently designated as distressed by the ARC and designated as both a Medically Underserved and a Health Professional Shortage Areas. This facility will help address these issues, while providing quality health care services. This project is expected to create 15 new jobs, and will allow for the treatment of approximately 2,500 patients per year. Construction on this project is scheduled to begin in summer 2010.

Ohio Department of Development Program Advisory Committees

Members of the Buckeye Hills staff will continue to 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.

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.

RPO Advocacy

Buckeye Hills has become increasingly interested in transportation planning as it pertains to rural communities across our region, and across Ohio. Currently transportation planning in the Buckeye Hills region is handled by the Ohio Department of Transportation, and generally only pertains to areas in or around State Routes. Washington County is the only county in our region that is part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area, therefore it is the only county covered by a Rural Planning Organization (Triple W Interstate Planning Commission, Parkersburg, West Virginia.) Outside of these state route areas, and outside of Washington County, transportation planning is largely leaving out small rural communities. Buckeye Hills is committed to advocacy for the adoption and creation of Regional Planning Organizations in Ohio that will provide transportation planning services to rural communities and areas outside the jurisdiction of MPOs. Buckeye Hills staff will remain actively involved with transportation and RPO officials from across the country during this process.



CHAPTER SEVEN - 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:

- Goal 1 – Work to curb 'regionalism' (negative competition).**
- Goal 2 – Create opportunities for local governments to be more proactive in the generation and allotment of resources.**
- Goal 3 – Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.**
- Goal 4 – Focus efforts on attracting 'new technology' types of jobs and investments rather than focusing on general manufacturing and retail expansions.**
- Goal 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.)

- Goal 1 – Work to curb 'regionalism' (negative competition).**

Regional Prioritization/ 2009 ARRA

During 2009, 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: Adoption of this type of process would 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 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 2009 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 labor force in the district. Buckeye Hills currently has a notification process in place.

Result: Between July 1, 2007 and April 30, 2010, Buckeye Hills received notification of six employment events that would prompt the attention of the EDR. The information was sent to the EDR by email and/or fax, and each notification generally contained information about multiple events. Overall, notifications sent to the EDR during this period indicated a potential gain of 350 jobs and the loss of 1,610 jobs across the district.

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 73 local development districts encompassing the 420 Appalachian counties in the United States. During 2009, Executive Director Misty Casto was appointed as head of the DDAA training committee. In this role Ms. Casto and Buckeye Hills have been very active in shaping and creating new programming for the DDAA, focusing on bringing LDDs closer together in a working partnership, and demonstrating the value LDDs add to the regions they serve.

Result: Buckeye Hills also continues to play a lead role in planning the DDAA GIS Training Conference. The conference was most recently held in Huntsville Alabama on March 31 and April 1, 2009, and is scheduled to be held April 28 and 29, 2010 in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

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 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 contributed data research, analysis, and mapping assistance to the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission for completion of the SR 32/ US 50 Corridor Study. During 2007, 2008, and 2009, 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 corridor itself, as well as a 5 mile buffer on all sides.

Result: This project was organized and led by the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, with financial support from the Appalachian Regional Commission. The final project report was submitted to the Appalachian Regional Commission prior to the December 31, 2009 deadline.

Regional Economic Development Study

Beginning in fiscal year 2008, and continuing through 2009, Buckeye Hills has been leading an effort to find funding for 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.

Result: AEP contributed \$10,000 to this effort in July 2008. Since this award of funding no other sources of funds have been identified, and progress on this project has come to a near standstill.

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. The goal of

this program was to review and redefine all Census geographies based on updated household and population thresholds.

Result: PSAP review was completed for all eight member counties and the resulting data was submitted and accepted in spring 2009.

Buckeye Hills also assisted several member communities as they validated their current corporate boundaries as part of the BVP (boundary validation program). This activity involved taking the printed and digital maps received from the Census Bureau and examining the boundary of the municipality in question for accuracy. Any discrepancies or errors were reported to the Census Bureau for correction before the collection of the 2010 Census.

Buckeye Hills also provided support during the survey and collection phase of the 2010 Census, by providing office and meeting space for temporary Census workers. The office of Buckeye Hills was designated and used as an official Census Questionnaire Center during spring 2010.

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 800 recipients.

Result: Listed below are some results from the media relations efforts of Buckeye Hills during 2009:

The Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District Office of Communications prepared press releases or media advisories on nearly 65 topics or events in 2009.

A total of 1,326 column inches of print news space was secured. With regional averages of \$12 for paid space, this equates to \$15,876 in free media placement.

In addition, the media coverage for the AAA8 Choices Expo that included an estimated value of over \$10,000 in ads in *The Marietta Times* and *The Senior News* publications as well as free air time for PSAs on WTAP Fox 28 and (\$7,600 in on-air time for Results Radio station PSAs and the live remote broadcast).

In addition, 11 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 are now referring to Buckeye Hills as an “expert source.”

Buckeye Hills has continued to work with the district’s Chambers of Commerce and educational entities to build relationships and garner support. Through membership and increased participation in chamber events and promotion of district programs through chamber newsletters, the organization is working to reach out further to small business and chamber memberships.

Government Relations & Advocacy

The Communications Department has also provided proactive legislative advocacy, and bolstered grassroots efforts to disseminate information about local issues impacting residents.

Result: In 2009, Buckeye Hills 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 2000 in the district and in Washington, D.C.

Buckeye Hills hosted 2008 recap meetings with each Board of County Commissioners providing county-specific annual reports and open dialogue on the county’s continued economic development and planning needs.

In addition, Buckeye Hills has been asked to participate at both the state and federal levels to be “the voice of rural Ohio” in meetings related to transportation planning, housing and agriculture.

Staff and regional representatives joined U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown in sharing the rural perspective with Dallas Tonsager, USDA Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development during his visit to Ohio. Buckeye Hills also formed a Broadband committee and provided input from the region to the Federal Broadband grant application.

Buckeye Hills was pleased to host Ohio Governor Ted Strickland and Congressman Charlie Wilson (D-OH 6) and many from across the region at its office in August 2009 to

announce Ohio's more than \$12.19 million of Recovery Act funding for water and sanitary sewer projects.

Buckeye Hills also developed an Area Agency on Aging Region 8 Legislative Partnership Award to recognize legislators who support serving the region's elderly and their caregivers.

Appalachian Advocacy

In January, Buckeye Hills partnered with two of Ohio's other LDDs to travel to DC as an Appalachian contingency. The executive directors from all three organizations met with Ohio's Senate and Congressional representatives to discuss the region and its issues.

Result: In March, the LDDs hosted an Ohio Legislative awareness event in Columbus working to educate all of Ohio's legislators on the Appalachian region, its strengths and its needs. Throughout the year, when necessary, advocacy letters were sent on behalf of Ohio's LDDs to show strength and solidarity of the region's leadership.

State & National Association Activities

The staff of Buckeye Hills remained active on local, state, and federal advisory committees and other groups sponsored by and made up of our partners from all disciplines. These activities allow Buckeye Hills and its staff to stay abreast of current development issues and ideas as they work to better serve the eight-county region.

Result: Buckeye Hills continues its membership in The National Assoc. of Development Organizations (NADO) and The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), Development District Assoc. of Appalachia (DDAA), as well as The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA), The Ohio Assoc. of Regional Councils (OARC) and The Ohio Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging (OAAAA) and The National Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) and The Eastern Ohio Development Alliance, where Misty Casto, Executive Director, participated as a Board member and leader with the Legislative Affairs Committee and staff members attended its annual meetings. This listing is not exhaustive, as Buckeye Hills Staff members actively participate on a variety of association leadership boards and committees.

Ohio Department of Development & Governor's Office of Appalachia

Buckeye Hills staff continued working with the Ohio Department of Development and the Governors Office of Appalachia to identify and catalyze additional economic development opportunities in the Buckeye Hills region.

Result: Buckeye Hills staff led and facilitated a "Region 11 Familiarization Tour" for key staff from the Ohio Department of Development. Local leaders saw this as an opportunity to put their best foot forward and showcase the comprehensive economic

development programs across our district. The goal was to market the region to the people who are ‘in charge’ of recruiting companies into Ohio and to find ways to partner with them on future projects. Buckeye Hills staff also provided direct input for enhancements to the Appalachian portion of the ODO web site.

Buckeye Hills also partnered with the Governor’s Office of Appalachia to formalize a process to host grant presentation events to broaden organized government, community and media participation.

Area Agency on Aging District 8 (AAA8) – Rural Health Care Economic Development

Buckeye Hills and the Area Agency on Aging Region 8 worked with the region’s aging service providers to formalize a cooperative of rural providers. In June 2009, the Home Healthcare Provider Coop filed articles of incorporation with the Ohio Secretary of State and named an interim board and officers.

This is a wonderful example of many groups coming together to provide a higher level of care for the greater region. This has been many months in the creation and we are already beginning to see synergies and new opportunities open because of the structured cooperative. The co-op team was honored by The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging with its 2009 Outstanding AAA/Provider Partnership of the Year Award.

The AAA8 network of providers delivered nearly \$3.7 million dollars of services across the region last year. They served over 250,000 home-delivered and congregate meals and provided hundreds of thousands of hours of homemaker and caregiver services and meet the needs of our nearly 800 PASSPORT clients.

Simcox Award

In 2008-2009 Buckeye Hills also developed The Simcox Leadership Award to recognize a current or past Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District Board member, business, community or county leader who exemplifies principles of vision and leadership and commitment to the success of the eight-county region.

Result: The award was introduced in 2008 to honor the leadership of C. Boyer Simcox who served as Executive Director of Buckeye Hills and an advocate for the region.

Positive Media References

As a requirement of the Renewable Planning Investment Award, Buckeye Hills is continuously monitoring local media outlets for positive references to the Economic Development Administration.

Result: During the specified period, Buckeye Hills was unaware of any major references to the EDA in the local media. There continues to be news interest surrounding a 2006 EDA investment that garnered significant local and regional headlines. The public works grant awarded to Hocking College for the construction of the Hocking College Energy Institute, located outside of Logan, Ohio continues to be a major success for the Buckeye Hills region. This facility hosted a grand opening event in October 2009. 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.)

Town Hall Meetings (2008-2009)

RENEW Ohio-18 (2008)

Monroe County Economic Development Contract (2006-2007)

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

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.

Result: All reviews have been completed in accordance with State Clearinghouse regulations. Buckeye Hills continues to act as the Regional Clearinghouse. Buckeye Hills Staff reviewed 22 projects from July 1, 2009 to March 30, 2010*.

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 2008-2009 Buckeye Hills participated in a total of 108 projects, with a total project cost of \$67,635,943. Administrative cost totals for these projects were \$622,392. For every one dollar in administration funds, Buckeye Hills leveraged \$108.67 in project funds. From these projects 1,325 jobs were created or retained.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) assists state and federal officials in making effective area investment decisions. As a requirement of the Renewable Planning Investment Award, Buckeye Hills maintains and annually updates a CEDS Document that is consistent with all applicable EDA requirements and regulations found at 13 CFR 303.6, and 13 CFR 303.7.

The planning process for completion of this document includes meeting with an appointed Advisory Committee, analyzing the regional economy, selecting economic development goals, and outlining a plan of action for working toward those goals. The Buckeye Hills CEDS document was last revised in September 2005. Annual reports based on the most recent revised CEDS have been submitted to, and approved annually by, the Chicago Regional Office of EDA.

The basic work elements of 2010 CEDS were as follows:

- The staff held two planning sessions during the spring of 2010 with the CEDS Advisory Committee. The purpose of these meetings was to craft and formulate the new vision, goals, and action plan for economic development in the Buckeye Hills region.
- Included in this analysis were environmental changes that might affect the goals and vision outlined in the CEDS document. Buckeye Hills staff spent considerable time and effort collecting recent changes in demographic and economic information for the district. This data was compiled and is presented in detail in Chapter III of the 2010 CEDS revision.
- Local officials and communities in the region were asked to submit potential EDA projects for inclusion in the CEDS document. An updated project list has been compiled and included in this revised CEDS document.

Result: This completed CEDS report will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration by April 30, 2010.

Geographical Information System Services (GIS)/ Data Center Services

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 January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009, Buckeye Hills received a combined total of 123 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.

Result: Examples of some of the groups that utilized Buckeye Hills GIS services, and the projects Buckeye Hills staff completed from July 1, 2009 to March 30, 2010 are listed below:

City of Marietta – Buckeye Hills continued its ongoing relationship with the City of Marietta during this report period. The Buckeye Hills GIS Manager provided GIS support to the Engineering Department as part of a yearly negotiated contract. As a part of this contract the following activities were completed, or are still under way. The final version of the City of Marietta's zoning data was completed and released for use by city officials. Regular updates to the corporation limit and corresponding zoning were completed. Two GPS data collection projects continued during the report period. Marietta's water distribution and wastewater departments continued collecting spatial data to complete mapping of their respective systems. Work on these projects is anticipated to continue through 2011 and possibly beyond.

Washington County – Buckeye Hills GIS Manager continued to serve as the de-facto GIS staff for Washington County during the reporting period. Buckeye Hills received a series of small contracts with various departments of Washington County government to provide GIS support services. The activities completed as a result of these contracts included; routine updates of digital tax map files, maintenance and update of local land use data for the Washington County Auditor's office, maintenance of GIS data for the Washington County Board of Elections, maintenance of emergency service response data utilized by parties

responsible for dispatching emergency service personnel, and coordination of county-wide monthly GIS user group activities.

Meigs County – Buckeye Hills staff completed a GPS collection project in the Village of Syracuse to collect all water meters, water valves, and fire hydrants within the village. Staff also digitized water main distribution lines for this local system.

This data was collected and will be used to achieve greater efficiency for the local water system staff as they complete day to day tasks related to the effective operation of this local water system.

Buckeye Hills staff also completed a small fire hydrant data collection project in the Village of Stockport during the summer of 2009. The Mayor of Stockport approached Buckeye Hills about this project, and staff was able to collect this data and turn around a finished map to the administration in a very short time period.

Buckeye Hills also continued work on collecting and updating public water information for Meigs County to update a map created in the past year at the behest of local elected officials and water system managers.

These are just a few highlights of the projects Buckeye Hills has participated in during the specified period, and not an exhaustive list. Buckeye Hills has also worked with local soil and water districts, convention and visitor bureaus, local educational groups, port authorities, economic development groups, private citizens, and students.

GIS Enhancement Project - Buckeye Hills will use grant funding received in spring 2009 from EDA and the Governors Office of Appalachia for a GIS enhancement project that will expand Buckeye Hills' current program capabilities. This funding enabled Buckeye Hills to purchase ArcGIS Server, a web server, and an additional Trimble sub-foot accuracy GPS data collection unit. Buckeye Hills will use these items to make many of the GIS maps and data sets that have been collected over the years accessible to interested parties via the internet. Buckeye Hills has also expanded the GPS asset management program, allowing communities to receive training on the proper use of the GPS data collection unit. Once this training is complete 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. Aside from assisting local communities with asset management, Buckeye Hills intends to host economic development data, Brownfield data, project data, and other relevant information that

can be effectively communicated through the use of customized maps hosted in the internet.

Result: As of this report, all associated hardware has been purchased and two data collection projects have been completed as a result. Two more are planned for the spring and summer of 2010. This local community data will be hosted in secured online map viewers, which will be available at <http://www.bhgis.org>. The website is currently in development and is anticipated to be available by April 2010. All activities related to this program will be fully implemented by September 30, 2010.

Buckeye Hills continues to actively advocate for the increased use of mapping technologies and spatial data to local governments, and other local parties throughout the region. To this end, Buckeye Hills continues to organize GIS activities across the district including user group meetings, project demonstrations, and presentations to local universities and interested parties. To further these goals Buckeye Hills staff also participates on GIS related curriculum committees, URISA, OGRIP, and other similar GIS bodies with the common focus of furthering the adoption of GIS throughout the region.

Website

The Buckeye Hills staff continued to promote the economic development opportunities and programmatic activities throughout the region between July 1, 2009, and March 30, 2010. A key tool used by the Buckeye Hills staff to convey this information is the agency website hosted at www.buckeyehills.org.

Result: 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. A problem with our web hosting company prevented us from retrieving statistics for buckeyehills.org between July 1, 2009 and March 30, 2010. This problem has been solved, and statistics for buckeyehills.org are once again compiling normally.

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 from July 1, 2009 to March 30, 2010.

Organization	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Government	109	82.0%
Business	12	9.0%
Comm. Org/ Non. Prof.	7	5.3%
Acad./ Research	3	2.3%
Priv. Citizen	2	1.5%
Media	0	0.0%
Totals	133	

Type of Request	Number of Requests	Percentage of Requests
Other GIS Map	63	47.4%
Misc.	27	20.3%
Community Prof.	18	13.5%
Income	9	6.8%
Census Maps	7	5.3%
Population	5	3.8%
Labor Force	4	3.0%
Totals	133	

Government organizations continue to be the most frequent type of organization requesting data, composing over 80% of all requests received.

“Other GIS Maps” which includes custom GIS maps and related spatial data is the most frequently requested type of information from the BH Data Center, composing nearly half of all requests received.

Regional Economic Development Study (2008-2009)

Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Acquisition Project (2008)

Goal 3 – Continue to improve infrastructure of all types.

West Malta Water Project

Buckeye Hills continued to assist 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. Construction on this project began in 2007. This project will allow for future expansion with the construction of a new storage tank and booster station. The estimated total cost of the project is \$4,150,500.

Result: As of this report construction on the main line is complete, and work is continuing on the installation of low to moderate income taps. All work on this project is expected to be complete by July 2010.

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 extends water lines to serve safe water to approximately 36 residents along Ohio State Route 285 between the villages of Caldwell and Sarahsville. The project provided for the installation of approximately 4.5 miles of water line and services approximately 36 homes.

Result: Construction on this project started in July 2009 and was completed in January 2010. The total cost of this project was approximately \$628,000.

Noble County Sanitary Sewer Collection

Buckeye Hills assisted the Noble County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the South Acres, Maple Heights, Florence and Slaters areas of Noble County. The project will provide approximately 266 homes with improved sanitary sewer services. The project involves the installation of approximately 40,935 linear feet of sanitary sewer line. The cost of this project is estimated at \$6,700,000.

Result: Contracts have been awarded and construction is currently underway.

Syracuse Racine Sewer District

Buckeye Hills assisted the Syracuse Racine Sewer District (Meigs County) in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding. These monies are financing a project to extend sewer services to approximately 45 households, and to facilitate the rehabilitation of the existing wastewater collection and treatment system. The project involves the installation sanitary sewer line, the rehabilitation of pump stations and rehab/replacement of manholes. The cost of this project is estimated at \$3,944,000.

Result: The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funding for the project. Environmental Review work has been completed, with bid packets released in February 2010. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2010.

Village of Racine

Buckeye Hills will assist Village of Racine in administering CDBG Water and Sewer Program funding that is financing a project to replace waterlines thus eliminating a health hazard. The estimated cost of the project is \$844,820. The project involves the replacement of 9,860 linear feet of waterline 95 households will be effected.

Result: The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funds for the Village of Racine Project. Environmental Review work has been completed; bids have been submitted and are currently under review. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2010.

Washington County Riverview Sewer Project

Buckeye Hills assisted the Washington County Commissioners in applying for a CDBG Water and Sewer Grant on behalf of residents of the Riverview area of Washington County. These monies are financing a project to extend sewer lines to approximately 121 households. The project involves the installation of approximately 7,738 linear feet of sewer lines and the establishment of sanitary sewer services in this area. The cost of this project is estimated at \$402,700.

Result: The State of Ohio has approved CDBG funds for the Washington County Riverview Sewer Project. Environmental Review work has been completed and bids for this project have been accepted. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2010.

Village of McConnelsville

Buckeye Hills will assist the Village of McConnelsville in administering ARC funding that will finance a project to reline sanitary sewer lines within the village. This project calls for the installation of 1,500 linear feet of sewer lines that will service four businesses. The cost of this project is estimated at \$239,100. The environmental review process is currently underway. Once the environmental review activities are completed the bidding process will begin. Construction on this project is not expected to begin until summer 2010.

Washington County Formula - 2009

Buckeye Hills staff served in the role of administrator for the FY'2008 Washington County CDBG Formula Program. As the designated program administrator, Buckeye Hills staff ensured that four Washington County projects, and one City of Belpre project complied with all funding requirements, as well as compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations. Buckeye Hills participated in the bidding process for contracts, attended all pre-construction conferences, completed status reports, and consulted with independent auditor at time of final audit. As program administrator, Buckeye Hills

agreed to reply to all funding agency inquiries as to the status of activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners as part of the FY' 2008 Formula Program.

Result: As of this report, these projects are underway. Funding has been secured in the amount of \$175,000, to be used for the following project activities: planning project; sidewalk improvements, public service; community center; fire protection facilities & equipment; and fair housing activities for the county. The total project costs for these activities will be approximately \$269,659.

Washington County Formula - 2008

Buckeye Hills staff served in the role of administrator for the FY'2008 Washington County CDBG Formula Program. As the designated program administrator, Buckeye Hills staff ensured that four Washington County projects, and one City of Belpre project complied with all funding requirements, as well as compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations. Buckeye Hills participated in the bidding process for contracts, attended all pre-construction conferences, completed status reports, and consulted with independent auditor at time of final audit. As program administrator, Buckeye Hills agreed to reply to all funding agency inquiries as to the status of activities undertaken by the Washington County Commissioners as part of the FY' 2008 Formula Program.

Result: As of this report, the FY' 2008 Washington County Formula projects are in the final stages of completion. The total project costs for these activities will be approximately \$451,911.

State Capital Improvement/Local Transportation Improvement Program

The Buckeye Hills Community Development continued to serve as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes the entire Buckeye Hills service region plus the counties of Belmont and Muskingum. The SCIP/LTIP program provides funding to counties, townships, villages, and water and sewer districts to enable repairs and upgrades such as, road replacement, bridge work, culvert work, water supply improvements, wastewater improvements, and improvements to solid waste and storm water systems. The staff provided technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of the SCIP/LTIP application. The staff will continue to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, such as; organizing meetings, distributing and posting meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking submitted applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the various other SCIP/LTIP programs.

Result: As of this report, Buckeye Hills staff assisted the District 18 Integrating Committee in rating applications and general activity coordination. The District 18 Integrating Committee has submitted 37 SCIP/LTIP applications and 10 Small Government applications from Round 23 to the Ohio Public Works Commission for

funding. The total project cost for the 47 selected applications will be approximately \$25,909,629.

Clean Ohio Fund – Conservation Program

The Buckeye Hills Community Development Staff served as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes the entire Buckeye Hills service region, plus the counties of Belmont and Muskingum. The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is 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 to further conservation and preservation efforts in the region. This funding is primarily used for the purchase of open space properties and the related costs of making them accessible to the public. This program also provides monies used for projects enhancing the protection of stream corridors, providing and protecting wildlife habitat, and the reduction of erosion. The staff will continue to provide technical assistance and training to assist in the completion of projects funded through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. The staff will continue to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) communities, such as; organizing meetings, distributing and posting meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking submitted applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding or consideration for funding under the Clean Ohio Program.

Result: As of this report, Buckeye Hills staff assisted the District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council in rating applications and coordinating administrative activities. The Committee has submitted 8 Clean Ohio applications from Round 5 to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding. The total project cost for those 8 applications will be approximately \$1,721,615.

Clean Ohio Fund – Revitalization Program

The Buckeye Hills Community Development served as the liaison for the Ohio Public Works Commission 18th District. The District includes the entire Buckeye Hills service region, plus the counties of Belmont and Muskingum. The Clean Ohio- Revitalization program provides funding to local governments, port authorities, conservancy districts, non-profit organizations, and for-profit entities to enable the acquisition and clean up a Brownfield area or property. Associated activities may include demolition of existing buildings, infrastructure upgrades and other improvements needed to redevelop the property. The staff will continue to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, such as; organizing meetings, distributing and posting meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking submitted applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding.

Result: As of this report, District 18 has submitted one application to Ohio Department of Development on behalf of the Hocking County Commissioners. The application was accepted and a grant agreement will be awarded by the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) for the remediation of the selected site.

Job Ready Sites

As the Liaison for District 18 of the Ohio Public Works Commission, Buckeye Hills also administered 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 continue to coordinate the activities of the various District 18 communities, such as; organizing meetings, distributing and posting meeting notices, publishing newspaper announcements, collecting applications, rating and ranking submitted applications, and forwarding applications to the Ohio Department of Development for funding or consideration for funding under the JRS program.

Result: As of this report, no applications have been received for this program.

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.

Reno Water Project (2009)

Amesville Sewer Project (2008)

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

Tuppers Plains Water and Sewer District (2008)

Washington County Formula -2007 (2009)

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)

Goal 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 2009, the Buckeye Hills Revolving Loan Fund closed 3 loans totaling \$620,505. These funds leveraged an additional \$1,346,620 in other public and private funding. These loan projects created or retained a total of 40 private sector jobs.

Firstohio.com Regional Advisory Board

Staff from Buckeye Hills continued to serve on the Firstohio.com Regional Advisory Board, which met 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. This website was designed to be a singular source of information for parties seeking business, residential, or tourism based information

Connect Ohio

During the past year Buckeye Hills staff has been actively participating in the project development and planning 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.

Result: Buckeye Hills was closely involved with the Washington County contingent of individuals working with Connect Ohio. The purpose of this group was to develop a potential project(s) that could be submitted for the second round of stimulus funding being made available from NTIA and BTOP. This group identified areas of need, determined appropriate levels of service needed in these areas, and created a list and map of aerial assets (radio towers, water towers) that could be made available to a wireless broadband provider in order to expedite the deployment of broadband to unserved and underserved areas.

RENEW Ohio-18 (2008)

Trickle Up Grant Program (2008)

Employee Workforce Assessment (2008)

Hocking College Technology Center (2006-2007)

Goal 5 – Continue to work to improve the 'soft issues' that surround economic development in our district.

Housing Program

During fiscal year 2009, Buckeye Hills continued to operate a housing modification for handicap accessibility and minor home repair program. This program focuses on combating issues such as handicap access, 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 nursing homes or assisted 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 address handicap accessibility needs and to perform minor home repair to 39 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 clients occupying office space, with four offices remaining for lease. These offices range from 99-209 square feet and are 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)

Appendix A

Administrative Staff

Misty Casto
Executive Director
Frederick Hindman
Assistant Executive Director
Douglas Dye
Director of Fiscal Operations
Brenda Wolfe
Fiscal Assistant
Debbie Parsons
Fiscal Assistant

Community Development Dept.

Melissa Zoller
Development Director
Tina Meunier
Business Development Coordinator
Bret Allphin
GIS Manager

Area Agency on Aging

Frederick Hindman
Area Agency on Aging Director
Vacant
Area Agency on Aging Deputy Director
Vacant
Nutrition Coordinator
Jane Skeen
Home Care Director
Denise Keyes
Fiscal Manager
Kimberly Flanigan
Long Term Care Ombudsman Director
Suzanne Davison
Long Term Care Volunteer Coordinator

Jeff Vogt
Ombudsman Associate II

Glenda Collins
Clinical Supervisor
Kimberly Steed

Clinical Supervisor
Jennifer Andros
Clinical Assistant
Kelli Lewis
Clinical Assistant

Judy Kuhn
Quality Improvement Manager
Debra Huff
Quality Improvement Coordinator
Tina Parker
Quality Improvement Assistant

James Lewis
MIS Manager
Cathy Ash
AAA Program Director
Mindy Cayton
Planner

Joe Gage
Housing Coordinator

Kara Wright
Screener

Janie Collins
Program Assistant

Sarah Swisher
Assessor

Jenny Myers
Communications Specialist/Program Assistant
Amanda Casto
Secretary/ Receptionist
Angie Robinson
Secretary/ Receptionist

Gwynn Clifford
Communications Director
Michelle Hyer
Development Specialist
Charmel Wesel
Development Specialist

Darlene VanDine
Care Coordinator
Jayne Yates
Case Manager/ Assessor
Vicki Bennett
Case Manager/ Assessor
Patricia Biehl
Case Manager/ Assessor
Kathryn Brammer
Case Manager/ Assessor
Sandra Cisler
Case Manager/ Assessor
Alta Coffman
Case Manager/ Assessor

Anita Offenberger
Case Manager/ Assessor
Christina Horn
Case Manager/ Assessor
Angie Scott
Case Manager/ Assessor
Kerry Nicholson
Case Manager/ Assessor
Veronica Norman
Case Manager/ Assessor
Chris Platt
Case Manager/ Assessor
Lynn Gedeon
Case Manager/ Assessor
Jennifer Fuller
Case Manager/ Assessor
Jamie Sweeney
Case Manager/ Assessor
Lisa Keaveney
Case Manager/ Assessor
Amy Arnold
Contract Assessor
Brandi Hesson
Information & Referral Specialist
Carolyn Ditchendorf
Information & Referral Specialist
Gerri VanNoy
Information & Referral Specialist
Sherry Crawford
Clinical Assistant

Appendix B

Issues Covered

State of the economy

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the region?
2. What are the growth sectors of the economy?
3. What is driving the regional 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?

Human and economic assets

1. Who are the important actors in the region (may include organizations, businesses, individuals and government)?
2. What economic, financial, or other development resources are at the disposal of these partners identified as regional assets?

Overall state of the local economy

1. How is the local economy currently performing in comparison to the previous CEDS document?

Growth sectors of the economy

1. Which sectors of our local economy have grown since the previous CEDS document? (Growth in economic contribution or contribution to the local labor force.)

Driving force of the economy

1. What is the driving force of our local economy? (Specific product, industry, sector, etc.)

External trends and forces

1. What outside forces or trends are having an effect (positive or negative) on the performance or condition of the local economy?

Regional position in national and global economies

1. What is our economic position in the state, national, and global economies?
2. Has this position changed since the previous CEDS document?

Appendix C

2010 CEDS Project Prioritization Criteria

	<u>Points</u>
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

(Note: Basic distress level in these criteria is determined using the most recent ARC county distress data available. Distress level as it pertains to EDA grant rates is calculated at the time of application. Since the EDA measure of distress changes based on monthly data, it is difficult to use for project ranking, as the data is constantly changing.)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2010 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT AND ITS SUBMISSION TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION BY APRIL 30, 2010.

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Administration provides financial assistance for Planning Assistance under the authority of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended by the Economic Development Administration Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-393), and

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills has received Planning Assistance from the Economic Development Administration, and

WHEREAS, Buckeye Hills is required as a part of the Planning Assistance to create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Region, and

WHEREAS, the CEDS is completed in the manner and time frame prescribed by the EDA, and

WHEREAS, the CEDS document is due for submission to the EDA by April 30, 2010

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY BUCKEYE HILLS-HOCKING VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

Section 1: The 2010 CEDS Annual Report has been reviewed and approved by the General Policy Council; we hereby approve the submission of the 2010 CEDS document to the Economic Development Administration by **April 30, 2010**.

Passed: 4/27/2010

Signed:



Ron Moore, President

Witness:



Misty Casto, Executive Director