



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 1, 2025

Buckeye Hills Regional Council

### AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order** | James Booth, President
- II. **Roll Call** | Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary
- III. **Consent Agenda** | James Booth, President **TAB #1**
- IV. **Development Division Update** | Sam Miller, Development Director **TAB #2**
  - a. Resolution of Appalachian Regional Commission 2025-2026 Projects
- V. **Brownfield Remediation Program** | Kate Dunn, Senior Planner **TAB #3**
- VI. **Member Round Table**
- VII. **Legislator and Partner Agency Updates**
- VIII. **Executive Director Report** | Chasity Schmelzenbach **TAB #4**
- IX. **Citizen Participation**
- X. **Other Business**
- XI. **Adjournment**

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THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 5, 2024.

**Minutes of the June 6, 2025  
Buckeye Hills Regional Council Executive Committee Meeting**

The Buckeye Hills Regional Council (BHRC) Executive Committee meeting was held June 6, 2025. The meeting was held at Buckeye Hills, Marietta, Ohio.

In attendance were:

<b>OFFICERS:</b>	James Booth, President Allen Fraley, Treasurer	Washington County Noble County
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</b>	Jason D'Onofrio Brian Howard Mick Schumacher Ben Carpenter	Hocking County Meigs County (Private Sector) Monroe County Perry County
<b>GUESTS:</b>	Bret Allphin Sarah Arnold Amber Kohler Tyce Patt Geoff Schenkel Nick Ulan	Marietta City Council Ohio SE Office of Congressman Rulli Office of U.S. Senator Moreno City of Marietta Office of U.S. Senator Husted
<b>STAFF:</b>	Kate Dunn Jen Huck Michelle Hyer Denise Keyes Angie Lawrence Jamie Lewis Aaron Martin Sam Miller Kimy Porter Amanda Reeder Jenny Simmons Drew Tanner Eric Wade Dawn Weber Emma Yeager	Senior Planner Fiscal Assistant Program Manager Fiscal Director HR Director IT Director Program Manager Development Director Fiscal Assistant Communications Specialist Program Manager Communications Director Senior Planner Home Care Director Development Specialist

**CALL TO ORDER**

James Booth, President, called the meeting to order.

**ROLE CALL**

Allen Fraley, Treasurer, conducted roll call.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Brian Howard moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the May 2, 2025, meeting; Statement of Activities; Administrative Expense YTD; Aging and Disability Programs Services and Funding Report for period July 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025, and Division and Director's Reports. Jason D'Onofrio seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

### **HOME CARE DIVISION UPDATE**

Allen Fraley moved to approve the Resolution for Participation in the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Joint Venture presented by Dawn Weber, Home Care Director. Mick Schumacher seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

### **PLANNING DIVISION UPDATE**

Jason D'Onofrio moved to approve the Resolutions to Approve FY 2026 – 2030 State Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Projects presented by Eric Wade, Senior Planner. Brian Howard seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Mick Schumacher moved to approve the Resolution to Adopt the SFY 2026 – 2029 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) presented by Eric Wade, Senior Planner. Allen Fraley seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

### **DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE**

Ben Carpenter moved to approve the Resolution to Enter into an Agreement with the Village of Somerset, Ohio for Grant Administration presented by Sam Miller, Development Director. Jason D'Onofrio seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

### **MEMBER ROUND TABLE**

Each member shared updates from their county. This open-floor format allowed members discussion of current initiatives, challenges and successes.

### **LEGISLATIVE & PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES**

Tyce Patt, Office of U.S. Senator Moreno, provided updates to the committee.

Sarah Arnold, Ohio SE, stated Brian Hill was hired after the retirement of Ed Looman and would probably be attending our meetings very soon.

Bret Allphin, Marietta City Council, thanked the BHRC staff for their work on the Marietta Levee Project and was pleasantly surprised to learn that the City of Marietta would receive funds to help with the Harmar Bridge Swing Span from ODOT grant.

Geoff Schenkel, City of Marietta, also thanked the BHRC staff for their help with the Marietta Levee project.

Nick Ulan, Office of U.S. Senator Husted, provided updates to the committee.

Amber Kohler, Office of Congressman Rulli, provided updates to the committee.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Chasity Schmelzenbach was absent because she was attending the NADO Summer Board of Directors meeting. Drew Tanner, Communications Director, provided the following updates from the Executive Director's report:

#### **Congratulations in the Region:**

- County Commissioners attended the White House & NACo leadership event last month.
- City of Marietta broke ground on \$9.5M ACGP Levee Project.
- Village of Caldwell to break ground on ACGP Downtown Improvements project on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Athens County Port Authority received \$225,183 in ODOT Brownfield funding for fuel station cleanup.
- ARC Ready Local Governments Grants: Meigs County and Village of Amesville.
- Village of Albany, City of Marietta awarded ODOT Transportation Alternative Program grants
  - Albany: \$291,032 for Washington Street Sidewalk Revitalization
  - Marietta: \$950,000 to refurbish Harmar Bridge Swing Span

#### **State Updates:**

- Senate Sub Bill released

- Flat income tax of 2.75%
- Broadens the Homestead Exemption program
- Restructures H2Ohio funding to give Dept. of Agriculture more money while reducing funding directly to ODNR and EPA.
- Restores Ohio Housing Trust Fund to its current model
- Establishes a \$90 million Residential Development Revolving Loan Program
- Attorney General approves language for ballot initiative to abolish property tax. Now in the signature gathering phase.
- Register to host an America 250-Ohio Homecoming Picnic in your community in 2026: [america250-ohio.org](http://america250-ohio.org)
- OBM is offering assistance to local governments needing to file ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Reports that were due April 30. Contact [grants@obm.ohio.gov](mailto:grants@obm.ohio.gov).
- Rep. Don Jones stepping down to serve as USDA Farm Service Agency Executive Director for Ohio.

### **Federal Updates**

- June 26: USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) applications due for planning and implementation grants
- Updated HHS budget materials: Americans Act programs NOT being split up or cut. OAA programs will be moved to Administration for Children, Families and Communities
- Reconciliation Bill (One Big Beautiful Bill Act) passed House 215–214. Now before the Senate, with a goal of passage by July 4.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

- July 21-24: Ohio Outdoor Recreation Economy Conference ([orcaohio.com/oorec](http://orcaohio.com/oorec))
- July 28-31: Ohio Conference on Freight ([ohioconferenceonfreight.com](http://ohioconferenceonfreight.com))
- August 13: Small Communities, Big Impact ([buckeyehills.org/events](http://buckeyehills.org/events))
- November 13: Aging in Appalachia ([buckeyehills.org/events](http://buckeyehills.org/events))

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

No citizens present wished to address the committee.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business, Jason D'Onofrio moved to adjourn the meeting. Brian Howard seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion carried.

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chasity Schmelzenbach, Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

### **Year to Date Administrative Expense Detail**

Administrative Expenses for Fiscal Year 2025 totaled \$6,636,364.14 on June 30. This total represents 82.73% of the Council's administrative budget. Total spending for this time period is budgeted to be 100%. The underspent budget is the result of specific programs' delay in commencement. Individual line-item budgets and expenses are monitored monthly to ensure funds are utilized appropriately, and budget revisions are requested from funding agencies as needed. The cumulative Indirect Cost rate for this period is 47%. The Projected Indirect Rate for Fiscal Year 2025 is 46%. A final Quarterly Budget Revision is submitted for review and approval.

### **Aging and Disability Programs Services & Funding Report**

The Aging and Disability Division worked with various service providers and helped administer a multitude of direct service programs to eligible residents of our eight-county region. Between July 1 and June 30, more than \$19.4 million in direct service dollars were utilized to provide the units of service listed in the report. BHRC continues to support our provider network to evaluate the needs of the communities and serve area seniors in the best way possible.



## Administrative Expense Detail

For the Period July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

	2024 YTD Actual	2025 YTD Actual	2025 Budget	% of Budget
Salary	\$ 2,617,202.39	\$ 3,056,688.27	\$ 3,767,557.42	81.13%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,764,207.54	\$ 1,820,829.63	\$ 2,048,798.67	88.87%
Advertising	\$ 244,105.77	\$ 142,441.57	\$ 142,785.00	99.76%
Audit Costs	\$ 32,492.70	\$ 30,415.70	\$ 32,000.00	95.05%
Building Maintenance	\$ 14,826.91	\$ 27,512.86	\$ 27,600.00	99.68%
Communications	\$ 89,191.58	\$ 156,713.01	\$ 156,875.00	99.90%
Conference Registration Fee	\$ 48,900.55	\$ 45,895.52	\$ 46,000.00	99.77%
Contract Services	\$ 100,724.68	\$ 241,596.12	\$ 683,695.76	35.34%
Employee/Governing Board	\$ 28,272.40	\$ 20,637.21	\$ 20,700.00	99.70%
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	\$ 26,403.58	\$ 25,844.23	\$ 26,000.00	99.40%
Insurance	\$ 61,694.74	\$ 45,928.00	\$ 45,928.00	100.00%
Legal Costs	\$ 4,785.00	\$ 4,493.75	\$ 4,500.00	99.86%
Organizational Dues	\$ 39,875.90	\$ 61,388.16	\$ 62,000.00	99.01%
Other Costs	\$ 21,280.07	\$ 14,994.99	\$ 15,000.00	99.97%
Postage	\$ 12,054.10	\$ 18,748.72	\$ 19,000.00	98.68%
Printing Costs	\$ 10,169.74	\$ 9,970.65	\$ 10,000.00	99.71%
Software & Licenses	\$ 131,581.76	\$ 147,018.86	\$ 147,815.00	99.46%
Space	\$ 255,340.83	\$ 255,340.69	\$ 255,340.00	100.00%
Staff Training Fees	\$ 14,713.60	\$ 16,582.63	\$ 16,600.00	99.90%
Subscriptions	\$ 9,785.55	\$ 19,932.59	\$ 20,000.00	99.66%
Supplies	\$ 176,036.65	\$ 159,170.29	\$ 159,466.00	99.81%
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 156,174.98	\$ 184,355.31	\$ 184,380.47	99.99%
Travel - Out of Town Expense	\$ 118,097.90	\$ 129,865.38	\$ 130,000.00	99.90%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ 5,977,918.92</b>	<b>\$ 6,636,364.14</b>	<b>\$ 8,022,041.32</b>	<b>82.73%</b>
<b>INDIRECT COST RATE FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>47%</b>		



**Quarterly Budget Adjustment**  
**For the Period July 1, 2024 -June 30, 2025**

	Original Budget	07/24 - 09/24 Change	10/24 - 12/24 Change	01/25 - 03/25 Change	04/25 - 06/25 Change	Final Budget
Salary	\$ 3,483,759.06	\$ 190,396.12		\$ 93,402.24		\$ 3,767,557.42
Fringe Benefits	\$ 2,009,341.12	\$ 38,412.37		\$ 24,473.18	\$ (23,428.00)	\$ 2,048,798.67
Advertising	\$ 128,785.00				\$ 14,000.00	\$ 142,785.00
Audit Costs	\$ 32,000.00					\$ 32,000.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 13,000.00		\$ 13,000.00		\$ 1,600.00	\$ 27,600.00
Communications	\$ 101,875.00				\$ 55,000.00	\$ 156,875.00
Conference Registration Fee	\$ 44,200.00				\$ 1,800.00	\$ 46,000.00
Contract Services	\$ 87,700.00	\$ 107,052.76		\$ 762,843.00	\$ (273,900.00)	\$ 683,695.76
Employee/Governing Board	\$ 15,000.00			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 20,700.00
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	\$ 22,800.00		\$ (3,000.00)	\$ (3,300.00)	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 26,000.00
Insurance	\$ 41,000.00				\$ 4,928.00	\$ 45,928.00
Legal Costs	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00		\$ (1,000.00)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,500.00
Organizational Dues	\$ 20,180.00			\$ 36,820.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 62,000.00
Other Costs	\$ 13,600.00				\$ 1,400.00	\$ 15,000.00
Postage	\$ 13,000.00				\$ 6,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
Printing Costs	\$ 16,000.00		\$ (10,000.00)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Software & Licenses	\$ 110,815.00			\$ (20,000.00)	\$ 57,000.00	\$ 147,815.00
Space	\$ 255,340.00					\$ 255,340.00
Staff Training Fees	\$ 9,000.00			\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 16,600.00
Subscriptions	\$ 8,500.00			\$ 500.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Supplies	\$ 68,375.00	\$ 27,591.00		\$ (20,000.00)	\$ 83,500.00	\$ 159,466.00
Travel - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 137,628.81			\$ 39,951.66	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 184,380.47
Travel - Out of Town Expense	\$ 100,000.00				\$ 30,000.00	\$ 130,000.00
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 6,733,898.99</b>	<b>\$ 365,952.25</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 922,190.08</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8,022,041.32</b>

## PROGRAM UPDATES

BHRC is continuing preparations for **National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accreditation**. The accreditation will ensure that BHRC is working within the parameters required by managed care. NCQA will focus on consistency of policy implementation throughout the aging case management program. BHRC continues to work with a consultant to ensure compliance and to finalize a timeline. The goal is to achieve certification by August 2026. BHRC intends to have required policies and procedures implemented for each standard by December 2025. The NCQA surveyors will use a six-month look-back period to assess documentation and confirm compliance. The survey is expected to take place in May 2026 and takes approximately three months to receive certification.

BHRC has entered into a **Joint Venture Agreement** with the AAA network to create **Care Director USA, LLC**. Care Director USA, LLC will develop, implement and utilize case management software to support MyCare 2.0 moving statewide. Accessing managed care software systems has proven to be cumbersome in the MyCare 1.0 implementation. The AAA intends to utilize Care Director USA, LLC as an organizational vehicle to implement a single, statewide software system lessening the burden to staff working within MyCare 2.0 Next Gen. The Joint Venture is managed by a board made up of AAA Directors and/or staff and an Executive Board of AAA Directors.

**The Ohio Department of Medicaid** continues to work towards transitioning to MyCare 2.0 Next Gen implementing the Program throughout all 88 counties in Ohio. The leadership team at BHRC has met with each of the four plans designated to work with the AAA network for a successful launch. The four plans include Anthem, CareSource, Molina, and Buckeye Health. Ongoing work includes developing a scope of work, rate negotiations, contract development, transition planning, and staff training. BHRC is slated to begin participating in August 2026.

**BHRC Leadership** spent two days visiting Direction Home Akron Canton (AAA10b) and the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (AAA6) to learn about their successful MyCare 1.0 implementation and how the program impacted agency operations. Discussions were held around Assessment, Case Management, Compliance, Fiscal and Provider Relations. The group also discussed their preparations for MyCare 2.0.

The **Title III/Older Americans Act Request for Proposals (RFP)** is slated to be released this month. The RFP will be open for 30 days. The RFP will be available through the Survey Monkey Apply platform. The Older Americans Act funding support service delivery to older adults in the community including transportation, meals, in home supports and adult day.

**The Ohio Department of Aging** shared the re-formulated Interstate Funding Formula (IFF) that determines the distribution of Older Americans Act Funds. The AAA Network discovered potential discrepancies with the reworked formula and has requested clarification from the Ohio Department of Aging. ODA has responded that a meeting will be held in the future to discuss the final outcome and the impact on the IFF.



The **Senior Farmers Market Program** has begun within the region. The application period is now closed for the BHRC region.

Athens	624
Hocking	340
Meigs	352
Monroe	140
Morgan	313
Noble	190
Perry	479
Washington	872
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>3,310</b>

**WAITLIST**

Athens	62
Hocking	26
Meigs	40
Monroe	7
Morgan	21
Noble	21
Perry	34
Washington	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>

The **Older Americans Act (OAA)** is once again being considered for reauthorization. The AAA network and USAging will continue to work at the federal level to secure funding levels and reauthorization. The OAA funds support community-based services such as home delivered meals, transportation, personal care, homemaker and adult day services delivered by our local senior centers and community action organizations.

The **Senior Community Services** amendment was successfully included in the State Budget. This increase in SCS funds has the potential to increase program funding and availability of matching funds in the BHRC budget.

The **Ohio Housing Trust Fund** remains unchanged in the State Budget. Advocacy efforts were successful in keeping the fund formula based on regional awards instead of moving to an 88-county based distribution. This outcome allows BHRC to continue to apply for Ohio Housing Trust Funds grants to support housing modifications throughout our eight-county region.

## **PASSPORT AND ASSISTED LIVING CASELOAD REGIONWIDE**

**PASSPORT: 796 individuals**

**Assisted Living Waiver 63 individuals**

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**CONTACT INFO:** Jennifer Westfall, Aging & Health Director | [jwestfall@buckeyehills.org](mailto:jwestfall@buckeyehills.org) | 740-376-1038  
Dawn Weber, Home Care Director | [dweber@buckeyehills.org](mailto:dweber@buckeyehills.org) | 740-376-1041

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## PROGRAM UPDATES

**HEAP Outreach** | Regular HEAP Summer Crisis Program began July 1 and continues through September 30. We have scheduled multiple newspaper ads promoting the program on behalf of the Community Action Agencies in each of our eight counties. In total there are 61 quarter-page ads scheduled to run July 14 through September 25. Additionally, a press release was sent to all news and media outlets, and we will have social media posts scheduled each month for the duration of the program.

**Aging Outreach** | Outreach continues across our region, where handouts and pamphlets are made available to attendees. Most recently, we attended:

- June 18 – CarFit Event in Caldwell – Noble County
- June 21 – CarFit Event at Marietta Memorial - Washington County
- July 22 – Belpre Senior Center Health Fair- Washington County
- July 31 – Glouster Community Day of Hope – Athens County

Upcoming outreach events include:

- August 24 – GoPacks Community Resource Fair – Washington County
- August 27 – Matter of Balance Class – Washington County
- August 29 – Noble County Senior Day –Noble County

If there is an upcoming outreach event in your community that we should attend or a civic group that would like to have a speaker on Aging topics, please contact Amanda Reeder at [areeder@buckeyehills.org](mailto:areeder@buckeyehills.org).

**Medicare Outreach** | General Medicare posts and information on Extra Help, Medicare Savings Programs, and Preventative Services are running on a weekly basis across our social media channels. We have partnered with Senior Medicare Patrol promoting fraud and safety measures against scams for the next year. We are working in conjunction with SMP in providing materials at events we attend in the region. Additionally, we will be using funds from the grant agreement to purchase 2026 Fraud Prevention Pocket Calendars. These will feature Buckeye Hills Aging & Health services and be distributed at events and through our care workers.

**ACGP Groundbreaking Celebrations** | Communications has been working with the Development team and communities to help plan, execute, and document groundbreaking celebrations for Appalachian Community Grant Program projects. We attended the Caldwell downtown square groundbreaking on June 12, helped plan and document the Black Horse Inn groundbreaking in Morristown on June 24, and the New Philadelphia groundbreaking on July 2. Planning and coordination are currently underway for groundbreaking celebrations in Noble County on August 4 for the school-based health center, in Monroe County on August 8 for the Ecotone Complex, and in McConnelsville on August 26 for their downtown square and the AMLER project that is supporting work on the Twin City Opera House.

**Advertising ROI Dashboard** | Communications has developed an ROI dashboard to help track Aging program advertising and outreach alongside the calls, assessment, and enrollment activity. This dashboard will continue to help the agency evaluate the impact of its advertising and outreach activities and help ensure that we're maximizing the return on those investments.

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**LocalIQ Campaign Results** | In May, Buckeye Hills contracted with LocalIQ on a multi-channel campaign in our eight-county footprint promoting the PASSPORT program and assessments. The campaign included targeted emails on May 1 and May 15 and geofenced online ads on streaming and YouTube, as well as display ads on desktop and mobile devices. Display ads were viewed 121,000 times, while emails were opened and viewed 8,900 times. The ads directly drove 243 website visits in the 33-day campaign period. The emails, which were sent to 30,000 individuals in the region, drove 1,468 clicks to our website for more information about the PASSPORT program. Assessment and enrollment impact generally lag in advertising campaigns by 2-3 months, so Communications will continue to monitor the advertising dashboard for near-term impacts on these metrics.

**Ohio University Documentary Project** | Communications has been working in partnership with the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission and students from Ohio University's Media Production for the Community class to document some of the projects supported by the Appalachian Community Grant Program in the region. Students have completed the first round of short documentaries, which have been posted to the Buckeye Hills YouTube page at [www.youtube.com/@BuckeyeHills](http://www.youtube.com/@BuckeyeHills). The shorts are being featured on buckeyehills.org and BHRC's social media channels to highlight the work being done throughout the region with support from the ACGP.

## RECENT MEDIA

- **June 2, 2025 – WTAP:** Strategic Highway Safety Plan Southeast Ohio Regional meeting held in Marietta
- **June 2, 2025 – WOUB:** Safety was in the driver's seat at Athens' first CarFit event
- **June 7, 2025 – Marietta Times:** Night out on the town: Marietta celebrates First Friday
- **June 13-19, 2025 – Multiple:** District 18 – OPWC Round 40 application information now available
- **June 16, 2026 – Journal-Leader:** Groundbreaking At Noble County Courthouse Kicks-Off Caldwell Downtown Revitalization Project
- **June 26, 2025 – Monroe County Beacon:** County projects vying for limited ARC funding
- **July 1, 2025 – Multiple:** District 18 — Natural Resources Assistance Council Clean Ohio Round 20 application is now available
- **July 1, 2025 – Multiple:** HEAP Summer Crisis Program Begins
- **July 3, 2025 – Logan Daily News:** Buckeye Hills Regional Council reports on county's ROI

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## CURRENT INITIATIVES

**Resolution of Support for Appalachian Regional Commission 2025-26 Projects** — Buckeye Hills staff has received, reviewed, evaluated, and rated pre-applications for the LDD region and prioritized project applications for funding based on the Buckeye Hills Fiscal Year 2025-26 ARC Pre-application Guidelines. The subsequent project pre-applications are initiated by eligible ARC applicants and are being recommended by Buckeye Hills leadership to the Governor's Office of Appalachia and ARC, as listed in the table in the resolution.

**Buckeye Hills, OU Honored with 2025 Impact Awards** | Buckeye Hills Regional Council and Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service have been recognized with [2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Awards](#) from the National Association of Development Organizations. Presented annually, the NADO Impact Awards honor regional development organizations and their partners for strengthening communities, building regional resilience, and enhancing local economies through innovative approaches to economic and community development. Buckeye Hills was recognized for its community engagement efforts for Buckeye Hills Forward: A Regional Economic Plan and its collaboration as part of the Monroe & Noble County Introduction to Tablets, Internet, and Email. Ohio University was recognized for the Appalachian Ohio Regional GIS Collaborative, a partnership between the Voinovich School, Ohio's four Local Development Districts, and the Mayors' Partnership for Progress.

**A Local Development Summit for Southeast Ohio** | On August 20, Buckeye Hills Regional Council will host our annual Development Summit. Small Communities, Big Impact brings together local leaders, elected officials, practitioners, and more to explore topics related to transformational projects in Southeast Ohio communities. This year's summit will focus on effective use of brownfield funding and landbanks, Community Development Block Grant projects, emergency management, and more!

## NEWS

### Program & Service Updates

**Ohio Public Works Commission Accepting Applications for FY 2027** | The Ohio Public Works Commission is now accepting applications for FY 2027 funding. This is a vital chance for local governments, water/sewer districts, and sanitation districts to secure funds for infrastructure projects that benefit Southeast Ohio communities. [Learn more about how to apply.](#)

**District 18 – Natural Resources Assistance Council Clean Ohio Round 20 Application Now Available** | The District 18 Natural Resources Assistance Council's guidelines and application for Round 20 of the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program are now available for Athens, Belmont, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, and Washington counties. The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program provides grants dedicated to environmental conservation, including the acquisition of green space and the protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors.

**NLIHC and COHHIO Release 2025 Out of Reach Report Detailing Gap Between Ohio Rents and Tenants' Income** | The National Low Income Housing Coalition and the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio released the [Ohio 2025 Out of Reach report](#), which shows that the gap between Ohio rents and renters' income

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has more than doubled since 2020. According to the report, full-time workers need to earn at least \$22.51/hour just to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment in Ohio, which is \$3.89/hour more than the average Ohio renter earns and a 148% gap increase since 2020.

The report also found that only 4 out of the 15 most common jobs in Ohio pay more than the 2025 Housing Wage, with about 21% of all the jobs in Ohio not paying enough to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

The Housing Wage is considerably higher than the statewide average in some areas of the state. Renter households living in the Columbus area need to earn at least \$27.79/hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment, while the Housing Wage in Cincinnati is \$24.75/hour and in Cleveland it's \$23.23/hour.

The report also finds that Ohio's Housing Wage has increased 40.7% since 2020, significantly outpacing most renters' income. The median wage for home health aides, for example, increased by \$3.34, but the 2-bedroom Housing Wage rose \$6.52 during the past five years.

**300K+ New Data Points on the Appalachian Region** | The Appalachian Regional Commission released new data on July 1 that shows Appalachia's labor force participation continues to improve, although population growth is slower than in the nation as a whole. This new data comes as part of ARC's 15th annual update of The Appalachian Region: A Data Overview from the 2019-2023 American Community Survey, also known as "The Chartbook."

More Key Takeaways from the Chartbook:

- **Decrease in Unemployment:** Appalachia's unemployment rate decreased by 0.8 percentage points between 2014-2018 to 2019-2023, compared to a 0.4 percentage point decrease in the rest of the U.S.
- **Homeownership:** Among occupied housing units, homeownership in the region was 6.7 percentage points higher than in the U.S. overall.
- **Household Income:** At \$64,588, the median household income in Appalachia is nearly \$14,000 below the U.S. average of \$78,538.
- **Cost Burdens:** The share of households in Appalachia that are cost burdened — where housing costs are 30% or more of monthly income — is 6.7 percentage points lower than the U.S. average.

## STAFF UPDATES

- **Michelle Hyer** has been working closely with staff on the Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP), with the administration of 16 projects.
- **Kylee Nichols** has been working on administering the Appalachian Community Grant Program projects assigned to her.
- **Jada Riley** attended the first annual Ohio Outdoor Recreation Economy Conference hosted by the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia.
- **Emma Yeager** has been meeting with all county commissioners to review the pre-applications for ARC that were submitted in their counties.

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**CONTACT:** Sam Miller, Development Director | [smiller@buckeyehills.org](mailto:smiller@buckeyehills.org) | 740-376-1028

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## PROGRAM & SERVICE UPDATES

**USEPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Program Update** | To date, the USEPA Brownfields Assessment Grant awarded to Buckeye Hills has supported environmental assessments for 15 projects across six of the eight BHRC counties. These efforts have included the completion of thirteen Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, one Sampling and Analysis Plan, one Limited Phase II Letter, one Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, three Asbestos Reports, three Lead Reports, three HAZMAT Reports, four Remedial Action Plans, and one Document Review and Recommendation. Several of these sites have progressed to receive further assessments, undergone environmental clean-up, or been demolished; which are actions that have significantly contributed to improving public health and safety in their respective communities. As part of a proactive regional outreach initiative, Kate Dunn, in collaboration with Melissa Zoller and Eric Wade, has led efforts to identify additional project sites. These community engagement activities have resulted in the addition of three new projects to the grant portfolio, which are expected to fully utilize the remaining funds. In tandem with these outreach efforts, Planning Division staff have begun collecting site-specific information and data to enhance and refine the strategic direction of the Brownfields program moving forward.

## STAFF UPDATES

### Melissa Zoller (Planning Director)

#### Engagement & Community Outreach:

- Working with City of Belpre and Marietta Memorial Hospital on Belpre site
- Working with Caldwell Exempted School on the Healthcare facility

#### Transportation Planning, Mobility & Innovation:

- Approval of the RTPPO Workplan
- Grant Agreement received for Mobility Management
- Hocking County Active Transportation Plan creating the final report
- Regional Active Transportation Plan pop up events are being developed
- Working with Caldwell Exempted Village School on the creation of the Healthcare facility

#### Professional Development & Conferences:

- Multimodal Training July 30 @ BHRC

#### Upcoming Events:

- Buckeye Hills Monthly Active Transportation Plan with Toole Design, August 6 virtual
- HOC-33-0.00 stakeholder meeting with EDG and ODOT August 11 @10 AM
- RTPPO's Semiannual meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>
- OARC Transportation Committee meeting August 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10 am

### Christa Myers (Transportation Planning Manager)

#### Engagement and Community Outreach:

- June 10: Meigs County Transit Hub Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Pomeroy
- June 13: CarFit event at Perry County Fairgrounds in New Lex
- June 21: CarFit event at Marietta Memorial Hospital in Marietta

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- July 1: ODNR Ribbon Cutting for Accessible Playground, Ramp, Kayak Launch, Bathrooms at Strouds Run State Park in Athens
- July 19: Regional Active Transportation Safety Plan Pop Up Event at Athens Farmers' Market in Athens

#### **Transportation Planning, Mobility & Innovation:**

- June 3: Regional Active Transportation Safety Plan Check-in with Toole Design & Hocking County
- June 6: Athens County TAC in Athens
- June 9: Virtual meeting with OSU Innovation Center Age-Friendly Staff
- June 17: Perry County Creating Healthy Communities meeting & Perry County TAC & Hocking County ATP Stakeholder Meeting in Logan
- June 18: Hocking Valley Scenic Trail Monthly Meeting in Logan
- June 27: OARC at MORPC in Columbus
- June 30: Regional Transportation/Mobility Steering Committee Meeting at BHRC
- July 15: OPTA Educational Committee Planning Session for Regional Conference
- July 21: Regional Active Transportation Safety Plan Steering Committee

#### **Professional Development & Conferences**

- June 26: CarFit technician re-certification
- June 27: CarFit event coordinator re-certification
- July 29: ODOT Active Transportation Academy – Walking Audit Training, in Delaware, OH
- July 30: ODOT Active Transportation Academy – Multimodal Design Guide Training at BHRC

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- August 5: ODOT Active Transportation Academy
- August 14: Accessible Ohio Summit in Columbus
- August 15: OMM Statewide Roundtable in Plain City

### **Kate Dunn (Senior Planner)**

#### **Engagement & Community Outreach:**

- Contracted with T&M Associates for the brownfield remediation project, Dexter City School Abatement and Demolition in Noble County.
- Contracted with T&M Associates for the demolition projects, Murray City School in Hocking County and Sarahsville School in Noble County.
- Contracted with SME for the brownfield remediation project, Claire's Corner Fuel Mart in Noble County.
- Worked on a brownfield site in Meigs County, assessing current needs and developing strategic plans for future action.
- In Athens County, a sewer extension project was supported by preparing the required bid documents and ensuring that the project is moving forward.
- Supported the Athens County Port Authority Speculative Building project.
- Supported USEPA Brownfields programming in Meigs and Noble Counties.

#### **Transportation Planning, Mobility & Innovation:**

- The Planning Division released an RFQ to obtain a transportation planning firm to assist the Buckeye Hills RTPPO with the creation of their Long-Range Transportation Plan. Responses have been submitted by 4 firms, and the team is in the process of scoring the responses.

#### **Professional Development & Conferences:**

- In June, Kate attended ODOT sponsored TIMS training.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- In the month of August, Kate will be preparing to take Maternity Leave until around the end of October or the first part of November, depending on the arrival of the baby.

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## **Eric Wade (Senior Planner)**

### **Engagement & Community Outreach:**

- Presented at the Regional Transportation Mobility Meeting about the OU GIS HUB
- Attended a public pop-up event for the Regional Active Transportation Plan at the Athens Farmer's Market.

### **Transportation Planning, Mobility & Innovation:**

- Organized and participated in the first Regional Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee
- Attended the bi-annual ODOT Active Transportation (ATAC) working group meeting to help develop their statewide bike/ped plan.

### **Professional Development & Conferences:**

- Presented at the Mayor's Partnership for Progress – July 10th
- Attended the Ohio Freight Conference in Toledo – July 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

### **Upcoming Events:**

- (LTAP) Active Transportation Academy: How to create an active transportation plan – August 5<sup>th</sup>
- Hocking County – US 33 Stakeholder Meeting w/ ODOT – August 11<sup>th</sup>
- RTPO Semi-Annual Meeting – August 18<sup>th</sup>
- OARC Transportation Committee Meeting – August 22<sup>nd</sup>
- (LTAP) Active Transportation Academy: Multimodal Design Guide Training – August 26<sup>th</sup>

## **Kelly Isaly and Julia Hinzman (Mobility Managers: Monroe, Noble and Washington Counties)**

### **Engagement & Community Outreach:**

- Noble CarFit Event – June 18<sup>th</sup>
- Washington CarFit Event – June 21<sup>st</sup>
- Belpre Chamber Meeting – July 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Noble LEPC meeting – July 11<sup>th</sup>
- Belpre Senior Center Resource Fair – July 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Washington County Roundtable - July 17<sup>th</sup>
- SOMA meeting in Monroe – July 24<sup>th</sup>

### **Transportation Planning, Mobility & Innovation:**

- Participated in the Regional Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee

### **Professional Development & Conferences:**

- Noble Hazard Mitigation Work Session – July 15<sup>th</sup>
- Active Transportation Academy – Multimodal Design Training – July 30th

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Belpre Farmers Market- August 6th
- Way2Go TAC meeting – August 12<sup>th</sup>
- Noble County TAC meeting – August 14<sup>th</sup>
- Monroe County TAC meeting – August 28<sup>th</sup>
- GoPacks Community Resource Fair – Washington – August 24th

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**CONTACT:** Melissa Zoller, Planning Director | [mzoller@buckeyehills.org](mailto:mzoller@buckeyehills.org) | 740-376-1027

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Applicant Name	Application Title	Project Type:	Total Project Cost	Requested Amount	Counties Served	Score
Caldwell Exempted Village School District	Caldwell Exempted Village School District	Non-Construction	1,006,000	256,000	Noble	Carry Over Project from 2024-25
Building Bridges to Careers	BHRC Region K12 Workforce Ecosystem Map and Sustainability Project, Multi County	Non-Construction	\$714,000	\$499,476	Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Washington	151.7
Tablertown People of Color Museum	Tablertown People of Color Museum, Athens County	Construction	\$1,250,000	\$750,000	Athens, Morgan, Perry, Washington	98
United Plant Savers	Brickhouse Apothecary Commerce Center Upgrade, Meigs County	Construction	\$689,000	\$551,200	Meigs	94.3
Appalachian Center for Economic Networks	Ensuring Project Success through Entrepreneurship, Meigs County	Non-Construction	\$420,000	\$335,000	Meigs	89.7
Switzerland of Ohio Water District	SOWD Grizzle Ridge Extension and Monroe Water Interconnection, Monroe County	Construction	\$2,162,000	\$750,000	Monroe	85
Perry County Commissioners	Phase 6 Waterline Extensions, Perry County	Construction	\$1,593,400	\$750,000	Perry	83
Village of Lowell	Lowell WWTP Replacement, Washington County	Construction	\$5,079,335	\$750,000	Washington	76
Ward Township	Dawley New Pittsburg Rd Paving Ward Township, Hocking County	Construction	\$97,280	\$68,640	Hocking	73.7
Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia	Baileys Visitor Hub, Athens County	Non-Construction	\$636,000	\$428,800	Athens	79.7
Monroe County Park District	Recreational Infrastructure Improvement Project, Phase 2, Monroe County	Construction	\$230,000	\$161,000	Monroe	73
Village of Chesterhill	Chesterhill Water System Improvements, Morgan County	Construction	\$935,200	\$654,640	Morgan	65.7
Village of Roseville	Roseville Storage Tank Replacement, Perry County	Construction	\$1,007,375	\$500,000	Perry	63.3
Tri-County Rural Water and Sewer District	Phase 7 Waterline Extension - Tri-County	Construction	\$1,631,620	\$750,000	Noble	68.7
Monroe County Commissioners	Appalachia Ecotone Trails, Monroe County	Construction	\$84,140	\$469,640	Monroe	52
City of Athens, Ohio	Warren Rd. Water & Sewer Extension, Athens County	Construction	\$600,000	\$420,000	Athens	Scored, but too low of outcome/no economic development noted
Village of Beverly	Village of Beverly Water Storage Tank Improvements, Washington County	Construction	\$2,497,800	\$750,000	Washington	Scored, but project shown to be fully funded
Caldwell Exempted Village School District	Expanding Workforce Development Opportunities in Noble County	Non-Construction	\$245,158	\$155,158	Noble, Washington	Scored, but Outdated Match Documentation
City of Marietta	The Harmar Loop, Washington County	Non-Construction	\$100,000	\$50,000	Washington	Scored, but no shown economic development
The Village of Somerset	The Village of Somerset Sanitary System Improvements, Perry County	Construction	\$1,952,984	\$750,000	Perry	Scored, but Cost Estimate or Match Documentation
City of Athens, Ohio	ALCO Boat Ramp on the Hocking, Athens County	Construction	\$600,000	\$420,000	Athens	Scored, but Cost Estimate does not match budget
Village of Amesville	Amesville Water Distribution System Replacement, Athens County	Construction	\$3,000,000	\$750,000	Athens	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Athens County Agricultural Society	Athens Fair Community Building Renovation, Athens County	Construction	\$105,000	\$70,000	Athens	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia	Baileys Trail System Visitor Hub, Athens County	Non-Construction	\$536,000	\$428,800	Athens	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Noble Local Schools	Career Pathways, Leadership, Entrepreneurship Initiative, Noble County	Non-Construction	\$227,000	\$175,000	Athens, Morgan, Noble, Washington	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development	CHW Thrive - Growing CHW Workforce and Effectiveness in Athens, Hocking, Perry	Non-Construction	\$588,077	\$333,244	Athens, Hocking, Perry	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
The City of Logan	City of Logan WTP Updates and Water Tower Project, Hocking County	Construction	\$4,850,200	\$750,000	Hocking	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Consumers Gas Cooperative	Consumer Gas Cooperative Natural Gas Bi-Directional Meter, Morgan County	Construction	\$2,360,436	\$750,000	Morgan	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Village of Coolville	Coolville: Water System Improvements, Athens County	Construction	\$2,386,876	\$750,000	Athens	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Derailed Distillery, LLC	Derailed Distillery - Washington County	Construction	\$1,717,871	\$750,000	Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Washington	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Village of McConnelsville	Emergency Sanitary Sewer Line Relocation (St. Rt. 60 & Oakwood-Sunset), Morgan County	Construction	\$6,174,600	\$750,000	Morgan	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Ataraxia Properties	Glass Press Technology + Low-Voltage - Washington County	Construction	\$2,000,000	\$750,000	Washington	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Hocking County Commissioners	Haydenville Regional Connection to the City of Logan, Hocking County	Non-Construction	\$9,794,746	\$750,000	Hocking	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Rising Appalachia	Land-Based Workforce Development in Athens County	Construction	\$2,457,300	\$749,000	Athens, Meigs	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
APPALACHIAN OHIO MANUFACTURERS' COALITION	Manufacturing Sector Workforce Expansion - Southeast Ohio	Non-Construction	\$779,246	\$500,000	Athens, Hocking, Monroe, Noble, Washington	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Athens County Commissioners	New Marshfield Unsewered Area, Athens County	Construction	\$9,154,250	\$750,000	Athens	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Switzerland of Ohio Local School District	Ohio River Valley Workforce Development II, Career and Technical Education, Monroe County	Non-Construction	\$703,483	\$496,100	Monroe	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital	OhioHealth O'Bleness Specialty Care Nursery, Athens	Construction	\$4,857,949	\$600,000	Athens, Hocking, Meigs	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Hocking County	Parking Facility Improvements, Hocking County	Construction	\$935,450	\$67,725	Hocking	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
The Village of Pomeroy	Pomeroy Riverfront Wall and Parking Lot Rehabilitation, Meigs County	Construction	\$1,440,205	\$750,000	Meigs	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Ohio & Lee Water and Sewer Authority	Sardis Wastewater Collection & Treatment System Phase III, Monroe County	Construction	\$6,095,618	\$750,000	Monroe	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Stuart's Opera House, Inc.	Snow Fork Event Center Utilities & Infrastructure, Athens County	Construction	\$672,612	\$672,612	Athens	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program	Strengthening the Workforce Ecosystem in Athens County	Non-Construction	\$500,000	\$500,000	Athens, Hocking, Morgan	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
The Village of New Lexington	The Village of New Lexington Water Distribution Improvements, Perry County	Construction	\$1,576,552	\$750,000	Perry	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Village of Albany	Village of Albany Carpenter Road Roadway Extension, Athens County	Construction	\$8,976,940	\$750,000	Athens	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Village of Gloucester	Village of Gloucester Water Meters, Athens County	Construction	\$1,080,000	\$540,000	Athens	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Village of Caldwell	Water Storage Tank's, Noble County	Construction	\$4,262,966	\$750,000	Noble	Did Not Pass Eligibility Review
Noble County Commissioners	Noble Local Water Line Extension, Noble County	Construction	\$1,125,500	\$625,000	Noble	Application Pulled



## **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION 2025-2026 PROJECTS**

**Recommendation to the State of Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia and Ohio Department of Development to Support Funding of the Buckeye Hills Regional Council Pre-Application Priority of Projects in Fiscal Year 2025-26 for the Ohio Department of Development and Appalachian Regional Commission**

Resolution #2025/08-01

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

**WHEREAS**, Buckeye Hills staff has received, reviewed, evaluated and rated pre-applications for the LDD region; and prioritized project applications for funding based on the Buckeye Hills Fiscal Year 2025-26 ARC Pre-application Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the subsequent project pre-applications are initiated by eligible ARC applicants and are being recommended by Buckeye Hills leadership to the Governor's Office of Appalachia and ARC as listed in the table; and

**WHEREAS**, the project pre-applications will advance one or more strategic goals as identified in the ARC Strategic Plan, including increasing economic opportunities; building a ready workforce; investing in critical infrastructure; strengthening natural and cultural assets, and developing leadership and community capacity.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Executive Committee of Buckeye Hills Regional Council hereby recommends the Fiscal Year 2025-26 ARC Pre-application Projects for Potential Submission, be approved as submitted and identified in this resolution to the Governor's Office of Appalachia, for their consideration and approval.

Passed this first day of August 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Booth, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Moore, Vice President

USEPA Brownfields Assessment Completed Projects			Services Completed											Additional Funds Leveraged?
Site Name	County	Address	Phase I	SAP	HASP	Limited Phase II	Phase II	Asbestos	Lead	HAZMAT	RAP	Document Review	GPR	
Chauncey Bailey's Trail Former Mine Lands	Athens	8433 W. BAILEY RD MILLFIELD, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO		X			X							
Russell's	Athens	136 Columbus Road Athens, Ohio	X											Yes, ODOD
Riley Shoe Factory	Hocking	14 Gallagher Avenue Logan, Ohio	X					X	X					Yes, Historic Preservation Tax Credits
Murray City School	Hocking	14020 LOCUST STREET MURRAY CITY, OHIO 43144	X					X		X	X			Yes, ODOD
Old Bridge Brewing Company	Morgan	281 West Main Street McConnelsville, Ohio	X											
Dexter City School	Noble	130 Jefferson Street Dexter City, Ohio	X					X		X	X			Yes, ODOD
Sarahsville School	Noble	806 GREEN STREET SARAHSVILLE, OHIO 43779	X								X			Yes, ODOD
Summerfield School	Noble	402 High Street Summerfield, Ohio	X			X			X	X	X			
Somerset Red House	Perry	109 East Main Street Somerset, Ohio	X											
Muskingum River Industrial Park	Washington	1501 Sparling Rd Waterford, Ohio										X		
In Progress Projects			Phase I	SAP	HASP	Limited Phase II	Phase II	Asbestos	Lead	HAZMAT	RAP	Document Review	GPR	
Sharon General Store	Noble	15009 McConnelsville Road, Caldwell, Ohio 43724	X	IP	IP		IP		X				IP	
Middleport Building	Meigs	122 N 2nd Ave Middleport, Ohio 45760	IP											
Belle Valley Former Gas Station	Noble	301 Main Street Belle Valley, Ohio 43717	x	IP	IP		IP						IP	
Former Gas Station Caldwell	Noble	314 West Street Caldwell, Ohio	x	IP	IP		IP						IP	