

REGION VII PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Serving Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis, Randolph, Tucker and Upshur counties and the municipalities therein.

21 E. Main Street, Ste. 102
Buckhannon, WV 26201
304/472.6564 (Phone)
304/472.6590 (Fax)
www.regionvii.com

FY2020 Highlights: A Year in Review

Over the last year, the Region VII Planning and Development Council staff continued the work of providing technical assistance, project development services and project management services for its member governments. They continued their efforts of developing and implementing projects that have and will create a better quality of life for the residents of this region. There have been many challenges the region has faced since July 2019, but the two main disasters that will have everlasting effects on the region's economy are the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancelation of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

In September 2019, Region VII decided to move its operations to downtown Buckhannon, WV. Since 2007, Region VII PDC's offices were located just outside the city limits. But, after the Upshur County Development Authority constructed its new Innovation Center in 2019, the Region felt it would be a good opportunity to move into this facility. The UCDA Innovation Center currently has a niche of community and economic development service-related agencies and it was decided that Region VII could provide additional resources to this facility.

Since March 2020, the United States has been trying to withstand and recover from the coronavirus pandemic. This region has been no different. The Council staff has been trying to assist its member governments with the technical assistance they have needed to withstand the closure of the economy during the months of March, April, and May. Additional funding has been granted to the Council to plan for any future pandemics that may occur and aid in the recovery efforts from this disaster. The staff has been teleworking since March 2020, but still has been intimately involved with developing projects, implementing projects, and meeting the needs of our constituents.

At the start of our new fiscal year (July 2020), Dominion Energy announced the cancelation of the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). This pipeline was proposed to transmit natural gas from West Virginia to North Carolina. This is an enormous loss to our community as this pipeline provided an economic boost to our region with all the construction activities that have taken place to date. Our local governments will lose an enormous amount of tax revenue and our local businesses will obviously see a downturn in their profits. Over the next year, the Council will try to make up for the loss of economic activity (jobs and new businesses) that was expected to be created because of the construction of the pipeline.

The Council continues to see a slight increase with our GIS activities. More of our local governments have seen the benefit of implementing this tool into their daily operations, which has resulted in more projects for the staff to implement. Even though more activity has been created at the local level, there is still a need for our communities to entertain the idea of implementing this tool into their daily operations. Region VII will be extending its enterprise agreement with Esri to allow our communities an affordable opportunity to initiate this application.

Region VII PDC continues to support and develop projects that will enhance the region's infrastructure systems. These projects include water extension and improvements, sewer extension and improvements, broadband deployment and transportation expansion and improvements. The Council is currently managing over \$130 million of various infrastructure projects and developing another \$50 million. Infrastructure improvements have consistently been a priority of the region.



Since there is always the threat of federal and state funds/programs to be cut and/or eliminated, Region VII continues to research other revenue generating sources to provide sustainability to their operations. Providing GIS services was one way we are trying to fill in the gaps.

Over the next year, Region VII will be updating and developing its 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for FY2021-2025. The Region will hire a consultant to assist with the completion of this plan, which will include a resiliency component pertaining to the recovery from natural disasters and pandemics.



FY2020 Budget and Financials

REVENUES	FY2020 BUDGET	FY2020 ACTUALS	% of Total Actual Revenue
Appalachian Regional Commission	\$77,322.00	\$77,829.00	11.43%
Economic Development Administration	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	10.28%
WV State Allocation	\$31,363.00	\$35,000.00	5.14%
GIS Services	\$20,000.00	\$14,021.25	2.06%
Project Administration	\$369,863.00	\$265,860.47	39.04%
Local Assessment Dues	\$149,452.00	\$171,871.00	25.24%
ARC GIS Planning Grant	\$0.00	\$19,376.60	2.85%
Event Sponsorship	\$0.00	\$16,500.00	2.42%
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$6,765.00	0.99%
Interest	\$0.00	\$3,782.56	0.55%
TOTAL	\$718,000.00	\$681,005.88	

EXPENDITURES	FY2019 BUDGET	FY2019 ACTUALS	% of Total Actual Expenditures
Salaries and Fringe	\$457,543.00	\$401,801.88	62.69%
Contractual	\$19,000.00	\$24,509.98	3.82%
Travel	\$18,000.00	\$2,818.81	0.44%
Space & Utilities	\$35,000.00	\$28,819.50	4.50%
Equipment	\$17,500.00	\$3,318.83	0.52%
Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$3,534.21	0.55%
Postage	\$1,500.00	\$1,634.21	0.25%
Telephone	\$9,000.00	\$9,003.86	1.40%
Printing	\$2,500.00	\$1,327.75	0.21%
Subscriptions	\$1,500.00	\$908.52	0.14%
Advertising	\$1,500.00	\$280.98	0.04%
Insurance	\$12,000.00	\$8,246.00	1.29%
Legal	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Professional Services	\$58,100.00	\$58,300.00	9.10%
Computer Hardware/Software	\$25,000.00	\$43,253.19	6.75%
Membership Dues	\$7,500.00	\$7,394.27	1.15%
IT Services	\$10,000.00	\$8,196.00	1.28%
Conferences and Training	\$18,000.00	\$15,051.63	2.35%
Meetings	\$10,000.00	\$1,447.39	0.23%
Miscellaneous	\$7,357.00	\$12,479.52	1.95%
Automobile Expense	\$0.00	\$7,418.72	1.16%
Reimbursable Project Costs	\$0.00	\$1,176.64	0.18%
TOTAL	\$684,000.00	\$640,921.89	

Region VII Planning and Development Councils FY2020 audit is scheduled to be completed in November 2020. Region VII has contracted with Brown Edwards, CPAs to conduct the audit. Region VII PDC's FY2019 audit was also conducted by Brown Edwards, CPAs.



Region VII PDC Membership List

Barbour County

Tim McDaniel—Barbour County Commission (1st Vice Chair)
Maureen Lasky-Setchell—City of Belington
Phil Bowers—City of Philippi
Gary "Ally" Miller—Town of Junior
Shana Frey—Private Sector
Dr. Tim Barry—Private Sector
Mike Cvechko—Private Sector

Braxton County

Melvin Gum—Braxton County Commission
Paul Bragg—Town of Burnsville
Natalie Treadway—Town of Flatwoods
Jeff Skidmore—Town of Gassaway
J.L. Campbell—Town of Sutton
J.R. Spencer—Private Sector
Evelyn Post—Private Sector
VACANT

Gilmer County

John Bennett—Gilmer County Commission
Dennis Fitzpatrick—City of Glenville (2nd Vice Chair)
Jim Tatman—Town of Sand Fork
Robert Hardman—Private Sector
David Hutchison—Private Sector

Lewis County

Agnes Queen—Lewis County Commission
Kim Harrison—City of Weston
Ruth Straley—Town of Jane Lew
Cindy Whetsell—Private Sector
Greg Cunningham—Private Sector
Kevin Stalnaker—Private Sector

Randolph County

Chris See—Randolph County Commission
Andy Burns—Town of Beverly
Jim Rossi—Town of Coalton
Danny Moss—Town of Huttonsville
Larry Serrett—Town of Mill Creek
Van T. Broughton—City of Elkins
Barbara Miller—Town of Montrose
Jerry Teter—Town of Harman
Robbie Morris—Private Sector
Mike Ross—Private Sector
Chris Wood—Private Sector
Mark Doak—Private Sector
VACANT

Tucker County

Lowell Moore—Tucker County Commission (Chairman)
Doug Martin—Town of Davis
Matt Quattro—City of Thomas
Solena Roberts—Town of Hendricks
Dorothy Judy—City of Parsons
Charles Lloyd—Town of Hambleton
Dennis Filler—Private Sector

Upshur County

Terry Cutright—Upshur County Commission
Robbie Skinner—City of Buckhannon
Mike Feola—Private Sector
Bobby Gompers—Private Sector
Connie Tenney—Private Sector (Treasurer)
A.G. Trusler, Jr.—Private Sector
Joel Thierstein—Private Sector

Region VII Planning and Development Council Staff

Shane Whitehair, Executive Director
Cary Smith, Project Manager
Stacey McDaniel, GIS Specialist
Jim Marshall, Project Specialist
Peggy Ball, Administrative Assistant
Cam Matheny, Financial Consultant



FY2016-2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

In 2015, Region VII Planning and Development Council updated and completed its 5-year strategic plan, per the new and revised U.S. Economic Development Administration's guidelines. A fourteen-member CEDS committee was formed to analyze the region, identify its strengths and weaknesses, and establish its goals and objectives. After several meetings, the CEDS committee created the following five goals:

- Goal #1: Improve the quality of the Region's workforce.
- Goal #2: Improve and develop the Region's essential infrastructure systems.
- Goal #3: Expand the availability of housing options throughout the Region.
- Goal #4: Increase broadband access to rural areas of the Region.
- Goal #5: Increase the Region's population.

After identifying the goals for the region, the staff and the CEDS committee outlined the objectives, steps, responsible party(ies), costs, potential funding sources and timeframes needed to accomplish each goal.

The Council is currently in the process of developing its FY2021-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The new 5-year plan is expected to be finished by December 2020.



Region VII PDC Project Priority List

Throughout the year, the staff maintains a list of projects that are not funded and/or complete. Region VII provides technical assistance as the Region VII PDC staff provides technical assistance and project development services to our member governments and their ancillary agencies; a list is maintained consisting of new, non-funded projects that need completed.

The list below are specific projects that have the highest priority and potential for regional impact that will assist the region in achieving its goals and objectives established by the CEDS Strategy Committee.

The chart below identifies the name of each project, the lead agency, the potential funding sources that might assist in financing the project, a brief description, the number of jobs that will be created and/or retained, the type of project and the estimated cost.

This project list is adjusted and maintained throughout the year by adding new projects and deleting projects that receive funding approval.

Project Name	Lead Entity	Potential Funding Sources	Description	Project d Jobs	Project Type	Cost
Laurel Run Reservoir	City of Philippi	USDA, IJDC, AML, Local	Providing additional raw water supply for Philippi's water system.		Water	\$7,500,000
Water System Improvements Project—Phase I	Chestnut Ridge PSD	IJDC, DWTRF	Complete water loss study and make improvements to existing system.		Water	\$4,000,000
Water System Improvements Project—Phase II	Chestnut Ridge PSD	IJDC	Replace existing water distribution lines.		Water	\$1,300,000
Phase II Sewer System Improvements	City of Philippi	USDA, IJDC, SRF	Make improvements to the City's sewer collection system.		Sewer	Unknown
Keeners Ridge Water Extension	Sugar Creek PSD	IJDC, DWTRF, USDA	Extend water to the Keeners Ridge area of Braxton County.		Water	\$4,500,000
Sewer System Improvements	Town of Burnsville	USDA, CDBG, IJDC	Make improvements to the Town's sewer collection system.		Sewer	\$2,839,000
Braxton County Broadband Project	Braxton County Commission	CDBG	This project will install fiber along Airport Road in Braxton County, WV.		Broadband	\$800,000
Storm Sewer Improvements	Town of Sutton	CDBG	Make improvements to the Town's storm sewer collection system along North Hill Road.		Storm Sewer	\$500,000
Tanner/Newberne Water Extension	Gilmer County PSD	CDBG, DWTRF, IJDC	Extend water service to the areas of Tanner and Newberne in Gilmer County.		Water	\$8,700,000
Rural Water Extension and Upgrade	Gilmer County PSD	IJDC, ARC	This project will extend water service to the Route 74, Tater Knob and Grass Run areas of Gilmer County and also upgrade and existing water tank.		Water	\$3,000,000
Gilmer County Broadband Project	Gilmer County Commission	CDBG	This project will install fiber along the Little Kanawha River Parkway in Gilmer County, WV.		Broadband	\$800,000
Rural Line Extensions	Gilmer County PSD	IJDC, USDA	Extend water service to the areas of Grass Run, Holt Run and Route 74 in Gilmer County, WV.		Water	\$3,280,000
Trail Connector	City of Glenville	USDOT, Local	Construct trail to connect Glenville State College to Hays City.		Transportation	Unknown



Rural Water Extensions	Lewis County EDA	CDBG, IJDC, WVAWC	Extend water to unserved rural areas of Lewis County.		Water	\$9,000,000
Infrastructure Upgrades near Exit 99 Interchange	Lewis County EDA	EDA, ARC, Local, Private	Upgrade infrastructure at development sites at Exit 99 interchange.	25+	Water, Economic Development	\$1,500,000
Sewer System Improvements	Town of Beverly	EDA, IJDC, SRF	This project will make improvements to the Town's sewer collection and treatment system	125+	Sewer, Economic Development	\$12,000,000
Phase III Sewer Extension	Norton Harding Jimtown PSD	ARC, USDA	Extend sewer service to the Jimtown area of Randolph County.	20	Sewer	\$1,800,000
Phase II Sewer Extension	Canaan Valley PSD	SRF, IJDC	Extend sewer service to areas of Canaan Valley in Tucker County.		Sewer	\$2,350,000
Water and Sewer Improvements	Canaan Valley PSD	EDA, SRF, IJDC	This project will make improvements to the water and sewer utility systems that serve Timberline Resort.	20+	Sewer, Economic Development	\$2,000,000
Interconnectivity Project and System Improvements	City of Parsons/Hamrick PSD	CDBG	Link Parsons and Hamrick PSD's systems together to use as back up supply during emergency situations and make improvements to its existing system.		Water	\$1,000,000
Sewer System Improvements	City of Parsons	IJDC, USDA	This project will make improvements to its existing collection and treatment system.		Sewer	Unknown
Pulp Mill Bottom Storm Sewer	City of Parsons	FEMA—Hazard Mitigation	Install storm sewer collection system in Pulp Mill Bottom area of Parsons.		Storm Sewer	\$500,000
Infrastructure Mapping	City of Parsons	Local	Locate and map all components within City's sewer, storm drain systems and other infrastructure systems.		GIS	\$75,000
Fink Run/Route 33 Water & Sewer Extensions	City of Buckhannon/Ten nerton PSD	EDA, Local, Private	Extend water/sewer service to the Fink Run, Lorentz areas along Corridor H/Route 33.	20	Water, Sewer, Economic Development	\$5,000,000
Water System Improvements	Hodgesville PSD	IJDC	Make improvements to the PSD's water distribution system in Upshur County		Water	\$2,780,000
Food Distribution Center	Upshur County Development Authority	ARC, Local	Create a distribution facility for locally grown foods.	10+	Economic Development	Unknown
Regional Broadband Project	CWVDA	USDA, Local	Provide wireless broadband service to rural areas of Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer Lewis, Randolph, and Tucker Counties.	5-10	Broadband	Unknown
Central WV ATV Trail System	Multi-County	ARC, EDA, POWER, Local	Develop the proposed ATV trail system in Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Lewis, Nicholas and Webster Counties.	10+	Tourism, Economic Development	Unknown
Sewer System Improvements	City of Belington	SRF, CDBG, USDA, IJDC	Make improvements to the City's sewer system.		Sewer	Unknown
Polk Creek Bridge Improvements	City of Weston	USDOT, HUD-DR, Other	Make improvements/replace the deteriorating bridge.		Transportation	\$1,000,000
Water System Improvement Project	Town of Coalton	USDA, IJDC, CDBG	This project will make improvements to the Town's water treatment and distribution system.		Water	\$3,325,000
Phase VIII Water Extension Project	Adrian PSD	USDA, ARC	The PSD is proposing to extend water service to rural areas of Upshur Count the Pickens community in Randolph County.		Water	\$9,000,000
Holly Gray Park Sewer Extension	Flatwoods-Canoe Run PSD	ARC, IJDC, SRF	This project will extend sewer service to the Holly Gray park in Braxton County, WV.		Sewer	\$3,000,000
Rail Improvements	WV State Rail Authority	EDA, Local	This project will make improvements to the rail system	100+	Transportation	Unknown



			that serves the Armstrong Flooring facility in Beverly, WV.		
Pleasant Hill Water Extension	Town of Burnsville	IJDC, CDBG, USDA	Extend water to the Pleasant Hill area of Braxton County, WV.		Water \$5,000,000
Phase II Sewer System Improvements	City of Elkins	DEP SRF	Make improvements to the City of Elkins' wastewater collection system.		Sewer \$4,300,000
Coketon Sewer Extension	City of Thomas	SRF, CDBG, IJDC	Extend sewer service to the Coketon area of Tucker County, WV		Sewer Unknown
Sewer System Improvement and Expansion	Town of Davis	EDA, IJDC, Other	Make improvements and expand the wastewater collection and treatment system in Davis, WV to accommodate business growth.	?	Sewer/Economic Development Unknown
Armstrong Flooring Expansion—Phase II	Randolph County Development Authority	EDA, WVEDA	This project will expand the operations at the Beverly, WV plant to incorporate their floor care industry.	50-75	Economic Development \$10,000,000
Sewer Extension to Jane Lew Industrial Park	Lewis County EDA/Jane Lew PSD	EDA, IJDC, USDA	This project will extend sewer service to new industrial park along I-79 near Jane Lew.	50	Economic Development Unknown
Asset Mapping	City of Philippi	USDA	Locate and map all components within City's water system.		Water \$15,000
Asset Mapping	Town of Harman	FEMA	Locate and map all components within Town's water, sewer and other infrastructure systems owned by the Town.		GIS \$75,000



FY2020 Developments and Accomplishments

This section will identify the impact the Region VII Planning and Development Council had on the region. Over the past year, staff was busy in developing and managing projects. Below are tables showing the accomplishments and the projects the Region VII staff helped develop, manage, and review.

Projects Managed in FY2020:

NAME OF PROJECT	TOTAL COST
Century-Volga PSD Century Sewer Extension	\$4,150,000.00
Chestnut Ridge PSD Water System Improvements	\$3,897,500.00
City of Philippi Arch Coal Sewer Extension	\$2,500,000.00
City of Philippi Water Storage Tank Replacement	\$2,735,000.00
Flatwoods-Canoe Run PSD Exchange Road Water Extension (Phase I)	\$3,043,000.00
Flatwoods-Canoe Run PSD Exchange Road Water Extension (Phase II)	\$2,498,027.00
Flatwoods-Canoe Run PSD Heaters/Weyerhaeuser Water Upgrade Project	\$2,482,208.00
Town of Burnsville Sewer System Improvements	\$2,839,000.00
Town of Burnsville Water System Improvements and Extension	\$4,503,639.00
Braxton County Dilapidated Buildings GIS Project	\$10,000.00
Gilmer County/Braxton County Broadband Plan	\$100,000.00
Town of Sand Fork Sewer System Improvements	\$2,500,000.00
Gilmer County PSD Prison Tank Improvements	\$1,400,000.00
Lewis County EDA North West Water Extension	\$3,716,681.00
Lewis County Alum Fork/Laurel Lick Water Extension	\$1,863,497.00
Lewis County Roanoke Water Extension	\$3,767,790.00
Weston Turnertown/Butchersville Sewer Extension	\$14,184,188.00
Lewis County Commission—Southern Lewis Broadband Project	\$500,000.00
Harman Water Improvement and Extension	\$5,935,000.00
Randolph County Development Authority Hardwood Cluster Manufacturing Expansion	\$3,645,000.00
Randolph County Development Authority Armstrong Flooring Expansion	\$9,310,000.00
Town of Harman FEMA Projects (Water/Sewer)	\$2,500,000.00
Harman VFD FEMA Project	\$210,000.00
Elkins Dilapidated Buildings GIS Project	\$10,000.00
Town of Mill Creek Water System Improvements	\$4,612,475.00
NHJ PSD Phase III Sewer Extension	\$1,200,000.00
City of Elkins Phase II Sewer System Improvements	\$4,279,800.00
Parsons Elevation Project	\$300,000.00
Parsons GIS Mapping Project	\$25,000.00
Parsons Kingsford Sewer Extension	\$700,000.00
Town of Davis Water System Improvements	\$2,335,000.00
Hamrick PSD Water System Improvements and Extension	\$6,075,563.00
Upshur County Development Authority Innovation and Knowledge Business Center	\$3,500,000.00
Elkins Road PSD Phase III Water Extension	\$6,500,000.00
Upshur County Development Authority Mountain State Broadband Expressway	\$16,068,500.00
Hodgesville PSD Water System Improvements	\$2,780,000.00
Central WV Development Association Regional Broadband Project	\$3,450,000.00
TOTAL PROJECTS MANAGED: 37	\$130,126,868.00



Below is a table illustrating the applications Region VII staff helped develop, complete, and submit on behalf of its member governments and other community and economic development agencies.

Applications Completed in FY2020

Program	Amount of Funds Requested	No. of Applications Submitted	No. of Applications Approved
USDA Reconnect Program	\$8,745,000.00	1	0*
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)	\$104,000.00	1	1
ARC Flex-E Grant Program	\$17,500.00	2	2
WV Small Cities Block Grant (CDBG) Program	\$4,132,008.00	5	0
US Economic Development Administration—CARES Act Funding	\$400,000.00	1	1
US Economic Development Administration Planning Grant	\$70,000.00	1	1
USDA—Rural Utilities Service	\$2,750,000.00	1	0*
FEMA Public Assistance	\$1,791,730.00	3	3
WV Infrastructure & Jobs Development Council	\$12,417,331.00	6	3
WV Department of Environmental Protection State Revolving Fund (SRF)	\$8,014,800.00	2	1
WV Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund (DWTRF)	\$1,000,000.00	1	1
AML Economic & Community Development PILOT Program	\$3,027,000.00	1	0*
WV Department of Military Affairs—Court Security Grant	\$71,289.00	1	1
TOTALS	\$42,540,658.00	26	14

*Funding announcements were not made as of July 1, 2020.



As referenced in the WV State Code, the Regional Planning and Development Councils were given the responsibility to review all applications of government agencies and/or independent agencies within the region for loans and/or grants submitted to the federal and state governments to assure that each project meets the goals, objectives and strategies of each region. Below is a list of projects the Region VII Planning and Development Council reviewed between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Intergovernmental Reviews Completed in FY2020

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT
Town of Sutton	North Hill Road Storm Sewer Phase II	\$498,500.00
City of Parsons	Emergency Water Preparedness & Resiliency	\$575,000.00
Lewis County EDA	Lewis County Phase I Water Extension	\$6,950,000.00
Vandalia Highlands	Vandalia Highlands Conservation & Recreation	\$2,259,996.00
Barbour County Solid Waste Authority	Recycling Program	\$19,950.00
Randolph County Solid Waste Authority	WV State Auditor's Office Compliance Project	\$9,650.00
Braxton County Solid Waste Authority	Recycling Program	\$24,900.00
Braxton County Senior Center, Inc.	5310 Program Van Purchase	N/A
Lewis County Senior Citizens Center, Inc.	5310 Program Van Purchase	N/A
Lewis County Senior Citizens Center, Inc.	Contract Services for Passenger Transportation	N/A
The Council of Senior Citizens of Gilmer County, Inc.	5310 Program Van Purchase	N/A
The Council of Senior Citizens of Gilmer County, Inc.	Contract Services for Passenger Transportation	N/A
Braxton County Senior Center, Inc.	Contract Services for Passenger Transportation	N/A
Braxton County Senior Center, Inc.	5310 Program Van Purchase	N/A
Youth Health Services, Inc.	5310 Program Van Purchases	N/A
Lewis County Commission	Lewis County Park	\$180,000.00
Barbour County Solid Waste Authority	Recycling Program	\$20,500.00
Braxton County Solid Waste Authority	Recycling Program	\$18,000.00
Alderson Broaddus Endowment Corporation	Renovations to Rex E. Pyles Arena & Coliseum	\$1,400,000.00
Upshur County Solid Waste Authority	Recycling Program	\$10,500.00

