

REGION VII PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

FY2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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

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FY2019 Highlights: A Year in Review

Over the last year, the Region VII Planning and Development Council staff continued the work of doing what we do best—providing technical assistance, project development services and project management services for its member governments. We continued the efforts of developing and implementing projects that create a better quality of life for its residents. Due to the work stoppage of the two major gas pipelines (Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Mountain Valley Pipeline Project), our region's economy has started to slow down. The construction activities on these two pipelines have brought significant traffic to the area. However, since the stoppage, the activity and traffic has significantly decreased.

Over the last few years, Region VII PDC has tried to initiate GIS services into its long-range planning. The staff believes that it is essential for our local governments and public agencies to implement these capabilities into their daily operations. As a result, Region VII PDC entered into an Enterprise Agreement with ESRI to allow the opportunity for our public agencies to obtain these services as a discounted rate. Over the last nine months, our staff has met with many of our local utilities and governments explain the agreement and the benefits of utilizing the software.

The region saw significant job loss from 2011 to 2015 in the energy sector, specifically with the coal mining industry. In this region alone, there were approximately 2,000 job losses in the coal mining industry. This put a huge strain on our communities as coal severance tax revenues decreased substantially. The downturn in the coal industry was so significant that additional funding was approved through the POWER Initiative, an initiative that provided additional funding to coal-impacted communities. Some of our communities benefited from this additional funding opportunity over the last couple of years and we continue to assist with submitting applications to these programs. Since 2016, our region has received over \$5.6 million of POWER/Assistance to Coal Communities funding for job creation and/or job retention projects.

Region VII PDC continues to support and develop projects that will supply broadband service to rural areas of the region. Region VII communities are still without reliable, fast internet service, let alone the ability to receive broadband speeds. To combat this issue, Region VII PDC staff was instrumental in implementing a regional broadband project that will provide broadband service via wireless technology. The project will serve rural areas of Barbour, Randolph and Upshur Counties and set the foundation to continue to spread this technology to other rural areas of the region. In addition, Region VII staff assisted the Upshur County Development Authority in receiving over \$16 million of AML PILOT funds to construct towers on abandoned mine sites to provide the opportunity for rural areas to receive acceptable broadband service. Broadband plans are currently being completed that will provide a road map for Gilmer and Braxton Counties to deploy broadband services to rural areas of these counties.

Region VII continues to assist with the improvements and expansion of its infrastructure systems. The staff has developed many water and sewer projects and is currently managing 24 infrastructure projects with a value of over \$101 million. The completion of Corridor H still remains the number one priority of the region. This major highway will open up this part of West Virginia to many economic opportunities. Specifically, this major highway will allow for the hardwood industry to grow leaps and bounds over what this cluster has done the last 15 years. The staff continues to develop projects and submit applications for economic development projects. For



instance, the staff provided technical assistance to the City of Philippi to extend sewer service to the Sentinel Mine in Barbour County, WV. This project will assist with the creation/retention of over 300 employees.

Since there is always the threat of federal and state funds/programs to be cut and/or eliminated, Region VII has been trying to find different revenue generating sources to provide sustainability. Providing GIS services was one way we are trying to fill in the gaps. Another way is to building relationships with other federal and state agencies that we historically have not worked with. For example, three years ago Region VII contracted with the WV Bureau for Public Health to manage their source water protection plan program. This required Region VII to obtain a consultant to assist local water utility providers with the completion of their source water protection plans, per WV state code. As a result of this relationship, Region VII was able to generate an additional \$30,000 of income for the agency. However, our council members realize that our GIS capabilities has the potential to create more opportunities for the agency to grow.



FY2019 Budget and Financials

REVENUES	FY2019 BUDGET	FY2019 ACTUALS	% of Total Actual Revenue
Appalachian Regional Commission	\$77,322.00	\$77,353.00	12.43%
Economic Development Administration	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	11.25%
WV State Allocation	\$31,363.00	\$31,000.00	4.98%
GIS Services	\$20,000.00	\$25,000.00	4.02%
Project Administration	\$369,863.00	\$254,375.54	40.88%
Local Assessment Dues	\$149,452.00	\$149,452.00	24.02%
ARC GIS Planning Grant	\$0.00	\$11,617.95	1.87%
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$301.14	.05%
Interest	\$0.00	\$3,185.44	0.51%
TOTAL	\$718,000.00	\$622,285.07	

EXPENDITURES	FY2019 BUDGET	FY2019 ACTUALS	% of Total Actual Expenditures
Salaries and Fringe	\$457,543.00	\$386,224.07	67.00%
Contractual	\$19,000.00	\$18,895.93	3.28%
Travel	\$18,000.00	\$8,339.74	1.45%
Space & Utilities	\$35,000.00	\$34,343.35	5.96%
Equipment	\$17,500.00	\$11,323.34	1.96%
Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$1,822.70	.32%
Postage	\$1,500.00	\$2,131.53	.37%
Telephone	\$9,000.00	\$8,847.90	1.53%
Printing	\$2,500.00	\$1,316.50	.23%
Subscriptions	\$1,500.00	\$1,057.21	.18%
Advertising	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Insurance	\$12,000.00	\$7,297.00	1.27%
Legal	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Professional Services	\$58,100.00	\$58,800.00	3.28%
Computer Hardware/Software	\$25,000.00	\$7,450.70	1.29%
Membership Dues	\$7,500.00	\$7,537.00	1.31%
IT Services	\$10,000.00	\$7,359.00	1.28%
Conferences and Training	\$18,000.00	\$7,089.82	1.23%
Meetings	\$10,000.00	\$3,784.80	.66%
Miscellaneous	\$7,357.00	\$334.13	.06%
Automobile Expense	\$0.00	\$2,489.24	.43%
TOTAL	\$684,000.00	\$576,443.96	

Region VII Planning and Development Councils FY2019 audit is scheduled to be completed in November 2019. Region VII has contracted with Brown Edwards, CPAs to conduct the audit. Region VII PDC's FY2018 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
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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

Randolph County

Chris See—Randolph County Commission
Andy Burns—Town of Beverly
Jim Rossi—Town of Coalton
Rodney McAtee—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)
Dough Martin—Town of Davis
Matt Quattro—City of Thomas
Solena Roberts—Town of Hendricks
Dorothy Judy—City of Parsons
Charles Lloyd—Town of Hambleton
Patrick Darlington—Private Sector
Dennis L. Filler—Private Sector

Upshur County

Terry Cutright—Upshur County Commission
Dave McCauley—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.



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	Projected 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	\$9,575,000
Water System Improvements Project	Chestnut Ridge PSD	IJDC, DWTRF	Replace failed lines to reduce unaccounted for water loss.		Water	\$3,000,000
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	\$4,000,000
Sewer System Improvements	Town of Burnsville	USDA, CDBG, IJDC	Make improvements to the Town's sewer collection system.		Sewer	\$2,839,000
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 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
Sewer System Improvements	Town of Sand Fork	CDBG, ARC, USDA	Make improvements to the Town's sewer collection and treatment system.		Sewer	\$2,500,000
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
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
Interconnectivity Project	City of Parsons/Hamrick PSD	CDBG	Link Parsons and Hamrick PSD's systems together to use as back up supply during emergency situations.		Water	\$575,000
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 Water/Sewer	City of Buckhannon	EDA, Local, Private	Extend water/sewer service to the Fink Run area along Corridor H.	20	Water, Sewer, Economic Development	\$1,500,000
Food Distribution Center	Upshur County Development Authority	ARC, Local	Create a distribution facility for locally grown foods.	10+	Economic Development	Unknown
Regional Broadband Project	Unknown	USDA, Local	Provide wireless broadband service to rural areas of Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer Lewis, Randolph, and Tucker Counties.	5-10	Broadband	Unknown
Local Broadband Project	Lewis County Commission/Lewis County EDA	USDA, CDBG, Local	Provide wireless broadband service to southern area of Lewis County.	5-10	Broadband	\$500,000
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
Sewer System Improvements	Town of Beverly	IJDC, DEP, CDBG, USDA	Make improvements to the Town's sewer collection and treatment system.		Sewer	Unknown
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
Exit 99 Infrastructure Improvements	City of Weston/Lewis County EDA	EDA, IJDC	This project will provide water and sewer service to properties located adjacent to Exit 99 of I-79.	50+	Water, Sewer	Unknown
Kingsford Sewer Extension	City of Parsons	EDA, Private	This project will extend sewer service to the Kingsford Manufacturing plant in Tucker County, WV.	111	Sewer	\$750,000
Rail Improvements	WV State Rail Authority	EDA, Local	This project will make improvements to the rail system that serves the Armstrong Flooring facility in Beverly, WV.	100+	Transportation	Unknown
Arch Coal Sewer Extension	City of Philippi	EDA, Private	This project will extend sewer service to the Arch Coal Mine in Barbour County, WV.	100+	Sewer, Economic Development	Unknown
FBOP Water Tank	Gilmer County PSD	EDA, IJDC	This project will construct a secondary water tank to serve the Federal Prison in Glenville, WV.	100+	Water, Economic Dev.	\$1,400,000
Regional GIS Program	Region VII PDC	Local	Implementation of a regional GIS program.		GIS, Economic Development	\$90,000
Pleasant Hill Water Extension	Town of Burnsville	IJDC, CDBG, USDA, ARC	Extend water to the Pleasant Hill area of Braxton County, WV.		Water	Unknown
Dilapidated Structure Assessment	Region VII PDC	ARC, Local	Develop a report of the abandoned buildings, dilapidated structures and vacant properties in the four incorporated communities in Braxton County, WV.		GIS	\$10,000
Dilapidated Structure Assessment	City of Elkins	ARC, Local	Develop a report of the abandoned buildings, dilapidated structures and vacant properties in Elkins, WV.		GIS	\$10,000



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 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
Water System Improvements	Hodgesville PSD	IJDC	Make improvements to its water distribution system in Upshur County, WV.		Water	\$2,500,000



FY2019 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 FY2019:

NAME OF PROJECT	TOTAL COST
Century-Volga PSD Century Sewer Extension	\$4,150,000.00
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	\$50,000.00
Gilmer County PSD Route 5/Hattie Road Water Extension	\$723,930.00
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
Elkins Dilapidated Buildings GIS Project	\$10,000.00
Town of Mill Creek Water System Improvements	\$6,432,475.00
City of Elkins Phase II Sewer System Improvements	\$4,187,600.00
Parsons Elevation Project	\$300,000.00
Parsons GIS Mapping Project	\$25,000.00
Canaan Valley PSD Sewer System Improvements	\$120,000.00
Town of Davis Water System Improvements	\$2,335,000.00
Hamrick PSD Water System Improvements and Extension	\$6,075,563.00
Adrian PSD Phase VI Water Extension	\$5,417,184.00
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
Upshur County CVB GIS Story Map	\$7,500.00
Upshur County Addressing and Mapping Telephone Conversion	\$10,000.00
Central WV Development Association Regional Broadband Project	\$3,450,000.00
TOTAL PROJECTS MANAGED: 33	\$120,395,782.00



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

Applications Completed in FY2019

Program	Amount of Funds Requested	No. of Applications Submitted	No. of Applications Approved
USDA Reconnect Program	\$8,000,000.00	2	0
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)	\$1,927,382.00	3	1*
ARC Flex-E Grant Program	\$17,500.00	2	2
WV Small Cities Block Grant (CDBG) Program	\$4,573,500.00	5	2
US Economic Development Administration—Disaster Supplement Grant	\$350,000.00	1	1
US Economic Development Administration Planning Grant	\$70,000.00	1	1
US Economic Development Administration Public Works & Economic Adjustment—Assistance to Coal Communities	\$2,000,000.00	1	*
AML Economic & Community Development PILOT Program	\$4,787,500.00	1	0
WV Department of Military Affairs—Court Security Grant	\$57,751.00	1	1
TOTALS	\$42,933,688.00	17	8

*Funding announcements were not made as of July 1, 2019.



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, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

Intergovernmental Reviews Completed in FY2019

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT
Youth Health Service, Inc.	Section 5310 Vehicle Purchase	\$26,400.00
Braxton County Solid Waste Authority	Braxton County Recycling Program	\$12,672.00
WV DEP AML	Fords Run Drainage—Barbour County	\$76,456.00
WV DEP AML	Stonecoal Creek—Lewis County	\$14,750.00
Town of Sand Fork	Wastewater System Improvements	\$2,500,000.00
Upshur County Development Authority	Mountain State Broadband Expressway	\$16,068,500.00
Lewis County EDA	Phase I Water Extension	\$6,950,000.00
City of Parsons	Emergency Water Preparedness & Resiliency Project	\$575,000.00
Town of Sutton	North Hill Road Storm Sewer Phase II	\$498,500.00
Town of Burnsville	Wastewater Collection System Rehab Project	\$2,839,000.00
Glennville State College	Purchase of SUV Police Vehicle	\$37,573.00
Adrian Public Service District	Phase VIII Water Extension	\$8,675,000.00
Friends of Blackwater	WALD Passive Treatment Reconstruction Project	\$249,294.00
Canaan Valley Institute	Fishery Enhancement Project	\$284,274.00
Flatwoods Canoe Run PSD	Phase II Water Extension	\$1,521,145.00
Central Barbour PSD	Water System Improvements	\$2,606,000.00
Upshur County Solid Waste Authority	Upshur County Recycling Program	\$9,300.00
WV DEP AML	Brownnton Refuse #2	N/A
WV DEP AML	Camden Landslide	N/A
WV DEP AML	Kano Mine Drainage	N/A
Randolph County Solid Waste Authority	State Auditor’s Compliance Project	\$9,650.00
Barbour County Solid Waste Authority	Barbour County Recycling Program	\$19,950.00
Braxton County Solid Waste Authority	Braxton County Recycling Program	\$24,900.00
Braxton County Senior Center	Section 5310 Van Purchase	N/A

