

Evaluation: How are we doing?

As part of the section titled, “Vision: Where do we want to be?” we defined the goals and objectives within the region. As part of the “Evaluation: How are we doing?” section we identified projects we have worked on over the last year that have assisted us in meeting our goals and objectives. If we have failed to develop or have not had the opportunities to accomplish any of the goals and objectives we noted it in this section.

It is realized that there are numerous obstacles the region must face in order to accomplish these goals. The biggest obstacle the communities in the region face is the lack of available funding. The slowed economy compiled with federal and state budget cuts has left many projects and program's futures uncertain.

Economic and Socioeconomic

Goal 1: Promote the development of an economy that enhances the success of existing businesses and that creates and sustains jobs in order to maintain a quality standard of living.

Objective:

Attract and maintain existing industry that improves the entire region's economic growth and stability.

- *Huntingburg OFS Project – EDA – The District has submitted an application to improve the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Huntingburg to assist in job creation and private investment growth by OFS Brands, Inc.*

Objective:

Promote and support programs and projects that assist existing industry in order to create ways to become more marketable in a changing economy.

- *Santa Claus Regional Water Project – EDA - The District secured funding for an additional water source for the Town of Santa Claus. This project will allow Holiday World & Splashin' Safari to expand its water park, and will add water capacity to the Santa Claus Industrial Park. The additional water supply will allow the Town to market its industrial park to more diverse industries.*
- *Track & Bridge Improvements Project – EDA - The District submitted an application to EDA for funding to assist the Perry County Port Authority in upgrading its rail to handle heavier loads. The need for rail services is in higher demand due to the rising gasoline prices.*

Objective:

Identify existing industrial sites that have been abandoned and target them for beneficial re-use.

- *English Brownfield – This site will have an environmental assessment completed as part of the Brownfield Assessment – Hazardous Substances.*

- *Brownfield Assessment Hazardous Substance – The grant has been approved, and EPA is finalizing the Cooperative Agreement (CA) for signature. The CA should be finalized by the end of August.*
- *Brownfield Assessment – Petroleum – The grant has been approved, and EPA is finalizing the Cooperative Agreement (CA) for signature. The CA should be finalized by the end of August.*

Objective:

Actively seek programs and projects that improve the infrastructure at existing industrial parks in order to make them more marketable.

- *Four Star Project – Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission assisted the City of Petersburg with sanitary sewer lift station improvements to improve the infrastructure to support existing and potential industries in the industrial park.*

Objective:

Strive to achieve levels of employment equal or greater than national and state averages.

- *Huntingburg OFS Project – CEDF – The District is submitting a request for Indiana Community and Economic Development Funds to support OFS Brands, Inc. expansion by improving the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant.*

Objective:

Utilize basic planning, coordination and organization needed to initiate and sustain sound development.

- *Milltown Comprehensive Planning – The District is working with the Town of Milltown to secure funding to develop a Comprehensive Plan.*
- *Dubois County Comprehensive Planning – The District secured planning funds for the preparation of a comprehensive plan in Dubois County. The Comprehensive Plan will study the impacts of a new Interstate through Dubois and Pike Counties. This plan is in development.*
- *Pike County Comprehensive Planning - The District secured planning funds for the preparation of a comprehensive plan in Pike County. The Comprehensive Plan will study the impacts of a new Interstate through Dubois and Pike Counties. This plan is in development.*
- *Petersburg Comprehensive Planning - The District secured planning funds for the preparation of a comprehensive plan in Petersburg. The Comprehensive Plan will study the impacts of a new Interstate through Dubois and Pike Counties. This plan is in development.*
- *Marengo Storm Water Planning – The Town of Marengo is working with the District to secure funding for storm water planning.*
- *Troy Master Utility Planning – The Town of Troy is working with the District to secure funding to develop a master utility plan for water, sewer, and storm water.*
- *Winslow Comprehensive Planning – The District secured funding for the Town of Winslow to create a new Comprehensive Plan, as well as develop a 5-year*

Park & Recreation as a major component to the plan. The plan is currently in development.

Objective:

Develop a regional finance pool to foster economic growth throughout the Regional.

- *Crawford County Revolving Loan Fund – The District assists the Crawford County Revolving Loan Fund in making loans to businesses that are seeking to locate or expand their business in Crawford County.*
- *Dubois County Enterprise Loan Fund – The District assists the Dubois County Revolving Loan Fund in making loans to businesses that are seeking to locate or expand their business in Dubois County.*
- *Micro-enterprise Loan Fund – The District has submitted an application to create a revolving loan fund for the entire region. This project will make funding available for loans and technical assistance.*

Objective:

Develop and promote the tourism industry in the region.

- *Dubois/Orange County Transportation Enhancement Project: Dubois and Orange Counties collaboratively submitted and were awarded \$1,000,000.00 for the rehabilitation of 8.5 miles of railroad track to connect Jasper and French Lick for train excursions. Repairs began in the summer of 2008.*

Infrastructure

Goal 2: Ensure that all residents and businesses of the district have adequate access to affordable water, efficient wastewater treatment, and telecommunication infrastructure.

Objective:

Promote and support programs and projects that provide every resident of the region with safe, clean, potable water.

- *And-Tro Water Corporation – The District is working with And-Tro Water Corporation to secure funding to expand water service to areas not currently served in rural Perry County.*
- *English Water Project – The District secured funding for the Town of English to loop their water system. The completion of this project will improve the fire protection of the Town.*
- *Petersburg Water Improvements Project – The District Secured funding for the City of Petersburg to make improvements to its water treatment plant, water wells and distribution system. This project will also add additional fire hydrants throughout the City.*
- *Grandview Water Project – The District is working with the Town of Grandview to secure funding to expand its water capacity.*

Objective:

Ensure that all residents have access to safe, clean, and affordable wastewater treatment systems.

- *Marengo Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – The District secured funding for the Town of Marengo to make improvements to its wastewater treatment plant.*
- *Paoli CSO Elimination – The district is working with the Town of Paoli to secure funding to eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows.*
- *Cannelton CSO Elimination - The District is working with the City of Cannelton to secure funding to eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows.*
- *Ireland Sewer Mapping Project – The District is mapping the sewer infrastructure for the community of Ireland.*

Objective:

Identify affordable alternative wastewater treatment for communities that cannot afford traditional treatment methods.

- *Spurgeon Wastewater Project – The District is working with the Town of Spurgeon to secure funding to establish an affordable wastewater treatment system.*

Objective:

Promote and support programs and projects that increase access to high-speed telecommunications to all residents and business in the region.

- *Chrisney Library Project – The District assisted the Town of Chrisney to secure funding to build a library in the Town of Chrisney. The new library will provide high speed telecommunication access to the residents of Chrisney.*
- *Dubois County Library Planning (Could be in planning) – The District is assisting Dubois County to secure funding to undertake a feasibility study for a library facility in the community of Dubois.*

Natural and Historic Resources and Physical Environment

Goal 3: To promote a balanced utilization of the region's natural, historic, and physical resources to preserve and protect the environment while maximizing its economic potential.

Objective:

Develop and support programs and projects that utilize the area's abundant water and timber resources while protecting them from pollution.

- *Anderson River Improvements Project – The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has the plan for review.*
- *Lower Patoka River Watershed Management Plan – The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is reviewing the plan.*

Objective:

Create and support programs and projects that enhance the marketability of the district's mineral resources, such as coal, oil, and timber without harm to the environment.

There was not an opportunity to develop a project under this objective.

Objective:

Develop and support programs and projects that identify and protect the districts historic assets in such a way that all residents will be able to enjoy them for years to come.

- *Pike County Rotunda Project – The district is seeking National Historic Registry status and funding to restore the stained-glass rotunda in the Pike County courthouse.*
- *Jasper City Mill Project – Jasper in collaboration with Redevelop Old Jasper Action Coalition (ROJAC) is spearheading the reconstruction of the Mill as a Welcome Center to foster small business development, tourism, and downtown economic development.*
- *Huffman Mill Bridge – Restoration work has been funded through FHWA. Will be submitting an INDOT Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant to raise out of flood danger zone.*
- *Orange County Courthouse Restoration – ADA project is complete. County is restoring exterior.*

Transportation

Goal 4: Promote the effective flow of people and materials within the district.

Objective:

Coordinate transportation planning for all six counties within the region.

- *INDOT Transportation Planning – The 2008-2009 project is underway with the first railroad crossings to be inventoried beginning on July 28th. Plat maps for mapping Petersburg and Spurgeon were obtained from the Pike County Recorder.*

Objective:

Cooperate with rural counties and small urban communities to address county issues and concerns.

- *Tell City Streetscape Project – Project has been completed to provide new sidewalk and other amenities to four blocks of Main Street in downtown Tell City, which will promote economic development in downtown Tell City.*
- *Jasper Sidewalk Project – Assisting City to use program income to replace sidewalks and improve drainage on a section of 4th Street.*

Objective:

Link population centers by strategic planning for Interstate 69 and U.S. Highway 231.

- *Abraham Lincoln 231 Corridor Study – The District secured funding to complete a corridor study around the new four-lane U.S. 231 Highway that is currently being constructed in Spencer County.*

Regional Planning Promotion

Goal 5: Promote and market the strengths of Regional Planning throughout our region and the state.

Objective:

Promote regional planning through participation with the Indiana Association of Regional Council (IARC), Geographic Information Council and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO).

- *The District has worked with IARC and NADO to promote regional planning throughout the region, state, and nation. The District has accomplished this by attending various meetings and training throughout the state and nation pertaining to the development of regional planning.*

Objective:

Enhance promotion of regional planning through media resources.

The District has used a number of media outlets to promote the regional planning commission. The District has regularly distributed newsletters, and updated our website.

Health and Safety

Goal 6: Enhance the quality of life for all residents of the Region, including access to health care, recreational opportunities, community facilities and safety.

Objective:

Increase availability to affordable healthcare throughout the region.

- *Crawford County Health Care Facility – The district is working with Crawford County to secure funding to complete a Health Care Feasibility Study. The study will identify what health care services are lacking in Crawford County and determine the feasibility of attracting those services to Crawford County.*

Objective:

Work with communities to address the areas in the region that lack the recreation facilities to accommodate its residents.

- *Huntingburg Trail Project – Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission secured funding for walking paths upon a former landfill site. This is located at an entry point into Huntingburg, creating a visually attractive site and also promotes public health benefits.*
- *Orange County 4-H Project – A planning study to address drainage, utilities, and facility improvements is being assisted in finding resources for this study.*
- *Paoli Senior Center – The District assisted the Town of Paoli in securing funding to construct a senior center in the Town of Paoli.*
- *West Baden Park Plan – Secured funding for 5-year Park & Recreation Master Plan. Plan is in development.*

Objective:

Actively support fire departments and emergency medical services in seeking funding to provide effective services to the region.

- *Spencer County Ambulance – The District submitted an Assistance to Firefighter grant for the purchase of defibullators, radios, and a generator in 2007 which was approved. A request in 2008 included pulse oximeters, pagers, and training.*
- *Chrisney – The District submitted an Assistance to Firefighters grant for extrication equipment, breathing apparatus, fill station, masks, generator, and training package in 2007, which was approved and a request for a tanker truck in 2008.*
- *Huntingburg – The District submitted an Assistance to Firefighters grant for turnout gear for the firefighters.*
- *Santa Claus Fire Truck – The District submitted an Assistance to Firefighters grant for the purchase a new fire truck.*
- *Petersburg Fire Truck – The District secured funding for the purchase of a new fire truck.*
- *Grandview Fire Truck – The District is assisting the Town of Grandview in securing funding for the purchase of a new pumper/tanker truck.*
- *South Patoka Fire Station – The District has secured funding for a feasibility study for the construction of a new fire station.*
- *Santa Claus Fire Station – The District submitted a Special Appropriation Application for the Town to assist with the construction of a new fire station.*
- *Paoli Fire Station – The District is assisting the Town of Paoli in securing funding to construct a new fire station.*
- *Jefferson Township Fire Truck – The District was successful in securing funding for the purchase of a new fire truck.*

Objective:

Promote multi-hazardous planning throughout the region.

- *Mitigation Planning – The district has developed Hazard Mitigation Plans for Crawford, Orange, Perry & Spencer Counties. FEMA is reviewing the changes submitted after the first submission.*

Objective:

Create a safer region by developing projects that promote public health and safety.

- *Gentryville Old School Project – The District assisted the Town of Gentryville secure funding to determine the best reuse of the “old school” property.*
- *Cannelton Flood Wall – The District submitted a Special Appropriation application to assist the City in repairing the flood wall along the Ohio River.*
- *Spencer County Public Safety Building – The District is assisting Spencer County in securing \$2.5 Million for the construction of a public safety building.*
- *Lake Rudolph Campground and RV Resort Storm Shelter – The District is assisting the management of Lake Rudolph in securing funding for a storm shelter.*