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Spring - Summer 2011 Newsletter

Marshall University's West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center (WVBAC) is a state-mandated program within Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS), Serving 22 Central and Southern West Virginia Counties

Former DOH Maintenance Garage Eyed for Community Center in Clay

The WV Department of Highways (DOH) former Maintenance Facility in Clay, WV has sat idle for several years, providing no benefit to the local community. While some residents see the closed facility as just another abandoned building, Amanda Moore, Economic Development Coordinator for the Clay County Economic Coalition, sees something entirely different.

When Amanda first contacted the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University (WVBAC) for guidance, she admittedly knew little about environmental issues, but knew that this site had potential for redevelopment to meet local community needs. "The building and property are right in the middle of a residential community, with no local community center, no place for local citizens to congregate. It makes perfect sense to reuse this property to meet those needs", Amanda said. This vision prompted Amanda to start negotiations between the DOH and Clay County Economic Development Coalition for the property.



An extensive section of the former underground storage tank pit area was excavated to remove residual levels of petroleum contaminants

(Photo by Dave Long, WVDEP)

The WVBAC did initial site historical research, then communications with the DOH and WV Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) took place. Records indicated that former underground storage tanks on the site had contributed to residual subsurface contamination, making the site questionable for redevelopment in its current condition. Mary Queen of the DOH and Dave Long of the DEP worked together to come up with a simple but effective remediation plan: remove the remaining residual contamination so the site could proceed toward redevelopment.



Above photo shows the former tank pit area back-filled to existing grade; former DOH Maintenance Building is seen in the background

(Photo by Amanda Moore, Clay County Economic Coalition)

Site remediation activities were conducted in May of 2011 by a DOH contractor. A final report of remediation activities will be finalized later this summer. With the contaminated soil now gone, Amanda and the Clay County Economic Development Coalition have cleared another hurdle on their way toward redevelopment of the former DOH maintenance facility for the Clay community.

Addison Awarded EPA Clean-up Grant for Former Railroad Depot

Addison, also known as Webster Springs, located along the scenic Elk River in the rugged hills of Webster County in central West Virginia, continues moving forward on its plan for redevelopment of the former railroad depot. “Before and after” photos show part of the transformation that has already occurred. The once dilapidated community eyesore is transforming into a beautiful structure for new use, while keeping its 1920’s era depot charm. Future plans for the building includes a tourism center and railroad museum.

The latest advancement was the approval of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields cleanup grant, awarded in June of 2011. Funds from this highly competitive EPA program will be used to complete remediation of residual en-

vironmental impacts that remain in the subsurface soils on parts of the property. The corrective action plan calls for capping the area to prevent future migration of subsurface contaminants, and entering the site into the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protections Voluntary Remediation Program to ensure future site control. The cap will be incorporated into part of the parking lot for visitors to the depot and nearby Bakers Island Recreational Area.

Geary Weir, Executive Director of the Webster County Economic Development Authority, and the WV Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University, assisted Addison in compiling the successful EPA application. While not ready yet, the former depot building is well on its way to becoming a new asset from an old eyesore for the Town of Addison.



Exterior View of Former Rail Depot Building in 2008, prior to the Start of Building Rehabilitation Activities



Spring 2011 View of Former Rail Depot Building Shows off the New Roof, Windows, Doors, and Exterior Additions

A promotional banner for the State Brownfields Conference. It features a large, stylized letter 'B' on the left. To the right of the 'B', the text reads: "Redeveloping Brownfields? We're the app for that!" followed by "September 14-15, 2011 Waterfront Place Hotel Morgantown, WV". Below this text are five colorful icons: a red calendar icon labeled "Registration", a purple calendar icon with the number "16" labeled "Event Information", a blue thumbs-up icon labeled "Sponsorships", a green house icon labeled "Accommodation", and a blue globe icon labeled "Directions".

This years State Brownfields Conference includes a keynote address by Mr. Keith Burdette, Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Commerce, multiple informational sessions and specialty workshops, federal and state

regulatory updates, plus an informative presentation from the Bechtel Summit Boy Scout Reserve. Complete conference information and registration details are available at:

www.wvbrownfields.com

WV Brownfields Centers Assist WVDEP with EPA Brownfields Hazardous and Petroleum Assessment Grants

“Our Centers continue to provide extensive assistance to local communities across the State, and it makes good strategic sense for us to provide a helping hand to the West Virginia DEP.”

Dr. Tony Szwilski,
Director,
WV Brownfields
Assistance Center at
Marshall University

The West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers have teamed up with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to administer their current EPA Brownfields hazardous and petroleum assessment grants. The West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University (WVBAC) will be handling the petroleum assessment grant, while the Northern Brownfields Assistance Center at WVU will take care of the hazardous assessment grant.

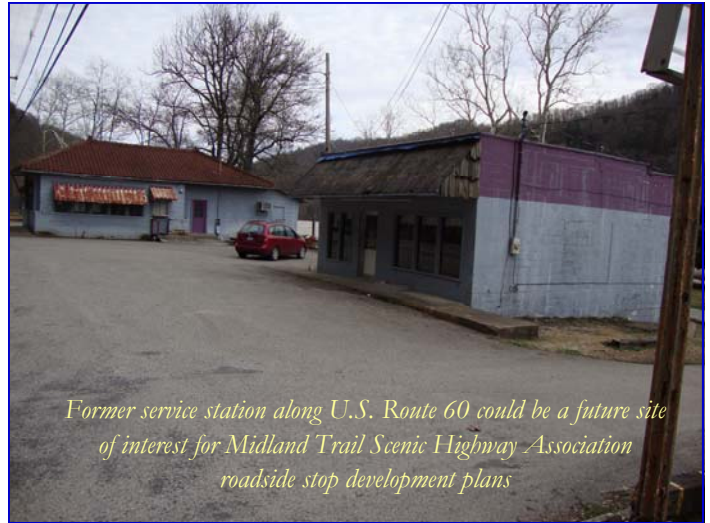
“This is a great opportunity for both Centers to assist the DEP”, stated Dr. Tony Szwilski, Director of the WVBAC. “Our Centers continue to provide extensive assistance to local communities across the State, and it makes good strategic sense for

us to provide a helping hand to the WVDEP”.

Both assessment grants can be used on sites throughout the State with significant redevelopment interest. The petroleum grant has a “first-priority” to identify sites along historic U.S. Route 60. The Midland Trail

Scenic Highway Association is interested in several sites along this scenic highway for future historical and tourism-based roadside stops.

Assessment activities are expected to start later this year after contractual documents are finalized.



Former service station along U.S. Route 60 could be a future site of interest for Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association roadside stop development plans

PRIDE Seeking Environmental Assessment on former High School for Future Site Redevelopment

PRIDE is abounding in Logan. PRIDE, which stands for Progressive Rejuvenation Improvement and Development Enterprise, is a non-profit, community service-based organization that has been active in Logan County since the 1950's. Programs are geared toward low income individuals and families to help them move out of poverty and toward self sufficiency. Programs to assist senior citizens, children and adults include home weatherization, food care and nutrition, and educational programs, to name a few.

As PRIDE has grown over the past years, they now have the need to expand. The former Logan High School building, owned by PRIDE and situated next to their existing property, is severely dilapidated and beyond repair. PRIDE has conceptual plans for redeveloping the site into a community center, senior housing, and/or a service center training program, but the former three-story high school building needs to be razed first. PRIDE is now working with the WV Brownfields Assistance Center to obtain funding to assess the building for asbestos and related regulated substances, to plan for building demolition.



Former Logan High School building sits in the way of future PRIDE plans that include a community center, senior housing, and facilities for various training programs

**West Virginia
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**Marshall University Center for
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*West Virginia Brownfields Assistance
Center at Marshall University*

*"Brownfields Redevelopment:
Every Site Counts"*

Mercer Mingo Monroe Nicholas Pocahontas
Putnam Raleigh Summers Wayne
Webster Wyoming

West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers
www.wvbrownfields.com

**Annual WV Wind Power Working Group
Meeting Announced**

The West Virginia Wind Power Working Group has announced its annual meeting, scheduled for September 27th, 2011 at the Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center. Come and hear the latest on wind power generation activities and issues from across the State. With West Virginia now home to four commercial wind farms, and more in the planning / development stages, this event is a "must-attend" for anyone interested in future wind power generation in West Virginia. George Carico, Environmental Manager with Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) and WV Wind Power Board member, said "this is the only event in the State dedicated solely to wind power generation, looking at all aspects and issues of this growing industry in our region; well worth attending".

This yearly event is sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Energy, and this years activities includes a tour of the Mt. Storm wind farm facility, where participants, if courageous enough, can climb inside an operating turbine. For event information, contact Dr. Patrick Mann at 304/293-7839. Hope to see you there.



**CEGAS Announces New Economic
Development Specialist**

Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) welcomes Dennis Jarvis, II to our staff. Dennis, an economic development specialist, is no stranger to CEGAS and Marshall University, working as the Director of the Mine Safety Technology Consortium (MSTC), a program now under the CEGAS umbrella, dedicated to expanding research, development, and manufacturing opportunities in mine safety, health, technology and equipment. Dennis will continue his work as Director of this valuable and important program, plus provide economic development support in our ever-growing and continually evolving West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center. Dr.

Tony Szwilski, Director of CEGAS, said "the enthusiasm and out-going spirit that Dennis brings will be another valuable asset to our team. We're excited to have Dennis on-board".

