

MID-OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MOVRC Monthly Newsletter
<http://www.movrc.org/>
304-422-4993

June 2021

COME CELEBRATE! MID OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL (MOVRC) IS TURNING 50!

June 23, 2021 1pm
Grand Pointe Conference Center,
Vienna WV

Join us for a special presentation and refreshments.
We are celebrating 50 years of service to the community

RSVP: ana.ambrose@movrc.org or 304-422-4993

Walton PSD Honors Service and Performance

On May 21st, friends and associates of Walton Public Service District gathered to honor retiring chairman and founding board member Lloyd Naylor. Lloyd had announced his retirement effective May 31st, 2021, which gave him 50 years of service to Walton PSD, Roane County, and our region. PSD board member and treasurer, Susie Cummings was also celebrated for her forthcoming retirement after giving her time to the PSD for over 34 years. Poca Valley Bank helped provide planning and refreshments for the event, which took on an additional meaning for celebration with an appearance by staff from the American Water Works Association. Long time Walton operator Rick Parsons was awarded the Perkins Boynton Award as the highest rated water operator in West Virginia for 2021. St. Albans system engineer J.D. Douglas nominated Rick, and stated:

“I nominate Rick Parsons at Walton PSD for the small system award. His system has consistently been at the top of our AWOP list, and he has done this for years. He has essentially been the only operator that system has since the death of his assistant operator a couple years ago. Homer Clark, was a former winner of this award 31 years ago. So Rick has been working 7 days a week for a long time, only taking off as he can get a substitute to come give him a break. Rick has also taken on General Manager duties, with only one field person, leaving him to also assist with all repairs. So, based on his efforts and overall system performance, I nominate him.

Congratulations and thank you to Lloyd, Susie, and Rick!



Congratulations!

SCP and FGP Updates

The Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs are once again partnering with West Virginia Extension Services for the “Grow This WV Challenge”. Volunteers will receive information on growing a three sisters garden and will receive seeds packets of corn, beans and squash. What is a Three Sisters Garden? “Three sisters” gardening is a traditional Native American agriculture technique that is still used by tribes throughout North America. It provides an opportunity to see how three crops – Sister Corn, Sister Bean and Sister Squash – can grow together and benefit one another.

Sister Corn’s tall, sturdy stalk provides a perfect trellis for Sister Bean’s vines. Sister Bean takes nitrogen from the air and fixes it in the soil, providing food for Sister Corn and Sister Squash. Sister Squash’s leaves provide shade, which preserves water in the soil and help keep weeds at bay. All three sisters provide a delicious, nutritionally balanced harvest for gardeners.



Community Development Update

The Community Development Program has fully submitted three Transportation Alternative Projects applications. The applicants are Ravenswood, Spencer, and Williamstown. If funded, these projects will provide safer sidewalks for these communities involved.

Governor Justice has announced over \$13.7 million in Community Development Block Grant funding. The projects that the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council worked to apply for and were funded include:

Spring Valley Sewer Collection System - Wirt County Commission \$1,500,000

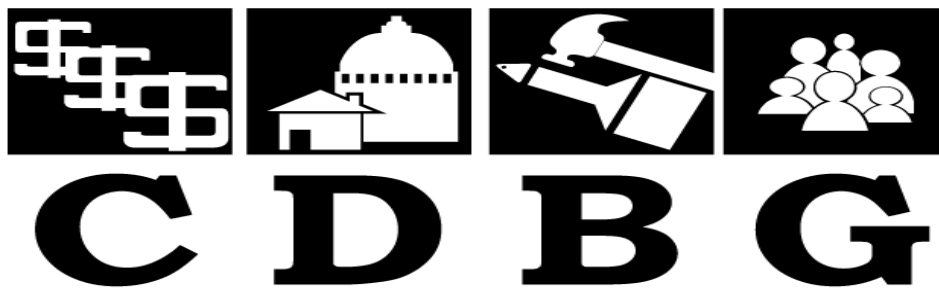
The project will replace the existing sewer collection system in the Spring Valley area of Wirt County to address inflow and infiltration issues that will serve 105 customers.

Rainbow Hotel Demolition - Town of Grantsville \$200,000

This project will demolish and remove the former Rainbow Hotel building, a dilapidated three-story building which the Office of the State Fire Marshal has found to need removal due to fire threat and threat of collapse into public roads.

Calhoun County Park Improvements Project - Calhoun County Commission \$150,000

This project will complete Phase I of the Calhoun County Park Master Plan which includes installation of an ADA-accessible bath house/restroom situated between the existing and proposed new campground areas.



**Community
Development Block
Grant**

MOVRC PRESS RELEASE JUNE 1, 2021 REGARDING WORKFORCE

After a successful relationship of more than two decades between the Mid Ohio Valley Regional Planning and Development Council (MOVRC) and the Region Four Workforce Investment Board, the Workforce Board of Directors has chosen to sever the relationship during the board's Friday, May 28 meeting. The MOVRC had overseen the fiscal and administrative duties for the Workforce Board since its inception.

The MOVRC initiated discussions with the workforce board shortly after the Region 4 board was established, in order to provide fiscal and management services during the period of transition from workforce development system managed at the state level, to a regional-based system. The Workforce Board voted to take the first step toward handling these fiscal and administrative duties on its own during Friday's meeting.

"We hope that the Region-4 Workforce Board will be able to continue a solid level of service to the people of their region. Many folks within the region need of the services required for new job skills education, assistance in transition from unemployment to the active workforce and workplace skills enhancement. Businesses in the region have also come to rely on the workforce board to assist in the development of a workforce that meets their specific labor requirements," stated MOVRC Board Chairman Eric Peters. "This is major step for Region-4, and for the sake of the people who rely on their services, we hope the transition goes smoothly," he added.

The MOVRC operates as an umbrella organization to several entities, providing dedicated and experienced staff to fill administrative roles for specific programs. Peters observed that the Workforce Board's decision will allow the MOVRC to increase its focus on the core mission of promoting economic and community development in an eight-county footprint, as it has done for fifty years. The MOVRC programs of senior volunteer services, small business lending, GIS, community development and transportation planning will continue uninterrupted.