



PROGRESS

A Newsletter Dedicated to Business in Bradford County

CENTRAL BRADFORD PROGRESS AUTHORITY • RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT • PROGRESS FOR PEOPLE

2008 Annual Report

April 16, 2009



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Brian Driscoll
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CBPA Intensifying Focus On Local Business Needs

Message From The Director

In the Progress Authority's 16 years of existence, never before have current times focused on our economy more than now. As an agency vested with economic development as our primary mission, not a minute goes by without us questioning the value of our time spent on our strategic work program.

The Authority has intensified its focus on finding out local business needs, concerns and special dynamics that effect particular business functions. Uncertainty and the inability to forecast is perhaps the most common struggle amongst our business community. Volatility of energy, raw materials and market demand has created substantial uncertainty amongst our manufacturers and consumers.

The Authority is, however, vested to provide creative and progressive efforts to stabilize and grow our economy going forward. We are optimistic with continuing support to infrastructure, alternative energy, creative marketing and new business investment to maximize job support in our area. We can foster new confidence.

We are excited about our natural gas investment opportunities and the potential for

energy generation from this resource. Also, the CBPA has been funded by the state under the Regional Investment Marketing Program to aggressively seek out of state businesses that best fit our area. This is a new partnership formed with Bradford, Susquehanna, Sullivan and Wyoming Counties. The CBPA is being called upon to develop creative and new programs to support our local economy. We intend to accomplish this by responding quickly and meaningfully.

We continue to be blessed with a strong board of directors and committed staff to accomplish our goals. I thank the Authority for another year of service and look forward to positive future endeavors.



Tony Ventello

CBPA Continuing To Move Forward With Projects

Message From The President

Time certainly does "fly by" and I've found that each of my succeeding birthdays seem to make time move even faster. I think that the same can be said for the Central Bradford Progress Authority which is now marking its seventeenth anniversary! I know that the days, weeks and months seem to go by too quickly for our very busy staff as well. The addition of natural gas exploration in the region has added another dimension to the Authority's goals and long range planning.

In this difficult economic environment, the Authority has continued working with existing area employers in an attempt to help with job retention. The Authority's revolving loan fund remains very active with nearly 50 existing projects and a loan portfolio of approximately \$2,500,000. We continue to move forward with infrastructure projects primarily in the areas of rail service and municipal water and sewer. Our staff's time is also directed towards recruiting new industries to our area from other states and Canada. The RIM grant which was recently awarded to the Authority will provide additional funding for marketing the industrial potential of the region.

Natural gas exploration to this immediate area brings a strong positive note to the area. CBPA is dedicated to acting as a conduit for business opportunities with such companies as Chesapeake, Fortuna, Cabot, Range and

Chief, to name a few. Many of our local businesses have the ability to fulfill the needs of these companies and CBPA will continue to assist these area businesses either through direct contact with gas companies or through a series of "expos". The Authority will continue to work with the Commonwealth's agencies and the gas companies in order to help maintain good communication and to help insure the area's environment.

Tony Ventello, Kim Kulick and Brian Driscoll are to be commended for the challenges they have undertaken with a great deal of enthusiasm. The CBPA members are also to be appreciated for their commitment of time and support. It would also be much more difficult for CBPA to remain successful without the support of our elected officials who have gravitated to our track record of getting things accomplished. My sincere THANKS to all.



Paul Kreischer

Natural Gas Development Accelerating In Bradford County

It has recently come to the attention of Bradford County residents that they sit on top of a tremendous natural resource known as the Marcellus Shale. The Marcellus Shale is a subsurface geologic layer that contains tremendous quantities of natural gas. Energy companies are now accelerating their efforts in Bradford County to develop this resource. The CBPA is working hard to establish long-term working relationships with the companies involved in this area. Also, the CBPA is trying to take steps to try to maximize the economic impact of gas development for existing companies and new business opportunities.

As a way to better understand the natural gas industry and potential future impacts, CBPA staff coordinated a trip to Wise County, northwest of the Dallas/Fort Worth region in Texas. Wise County has a similar demographic profile to Bradford County and has been involved in the Barnett Shale natural gas field for approximately eight years. CBPA and Bradford County officials were involved in a 3-day series of meetings with public officials, private business owners, and industry representatives. Several natural gas drilling/production operations were also toured. The trip was hugely beneficial as a way to understand the natural gas production process and to gain insight on potential future opportunities and challenges in Bradford County.

After returning from Texas, the CBPA worked jointly with the Bradford County Commissioners to organize a public informational forum to present information gathered from the trip. Commissioner Kevin Burns from Wise County was present to discuss the impact of natural gas development on his community. The presentation was very well

received and helped to educate Bradford County residents on the natural gas industry.

Energy companies have shared that they fully expect that, in the coming years, drilling rigs and associated equipment utilized by the natural gas industry will become more and more commonplace in Bradford County. Primary energy companies involved in Bradford County at this time include:

Chesapeake Energy

Chief Oil & Gas

East Resources

EOG Resources

Fortuna Energy

Southwestern Energy

Numerous subcontractors are also present to provide services

for the energy companies, and several local businesses have become involved in the industry in various roles. Chesapeake Energy has set up a field office in the former Ames department store in Towanda Township to service this region, and the CBPA is ex-

cited to work with other companies to accommodate their local needs. The development of the Marcellus Shale is providing a dynamic opportunity for Bradford County in otherwise tough economic times.



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Global Tungsten & Powders Opens In Towanda

The former OSRAM Sylvania facility in Towanda was acquired by Plansee Group in August 2008. The facility is now known as Global Tungsten & Powders (GTP) Corp. and is a stand-alone

division within the Plansee Group. The facility specializes in hard materials manufacturing, particularly with tungsten and molybdenum.

This transition appears to be

very positive for the company and for the Bradford County manufacturing community. Management for Global Tungsten & Powders is headquartered in Towanda, and the local facility

employs approximately 1,000. The CBPA is excited about the opportunities presented by GTP and looks forward to a strong relationship with the company.



Ribbon-Cutting For Yanuzzi Drive Held In October 2008



In order to eliminate a difficult intersection near Leprino Foods, Yanuzzi Drive in South Waverly was realigned during the summer/fall of 2008. The CBPA worked in partnership with PennDOT and South Waverly Borough to assemble the funding package for the project. Yanuzzi Drive east of Fulton Street was relocated to create a 90-degree four-way intersection to improve traffic flow. A ribbon-cutting for the new roadway was held in October.

The CBPA is also involved in a project to realign Yanuzzi Drive west of Fulton Street in order to support future expansion opportunities for Leprino Foods. This project has been designed, and the CBPA hopes to have it under construction during summer 2009.

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Camco Manufacturing Constructing Facility In Valley Business Park



Camco Manufacturing, Inc. is a custom precision machining company that is constructing a new facility in Valley Business Park, Athens Township. The company is relocating its operations from Endicott, NY and expects to employ at least 45 workers. The CBPA and the PA Governor's Action Team worked jointly on a funding package to support Camco's opportunity.

Construction was begun in July 2008, and Camco expects to be fully operational in the building during April 2009. The CBPA is pleased to welcome this company to Bradford County's manufacturing community.



Enterprise Zone Funding Supports Manufacturing Projects

The CBPA was successful in securing Competitive Grant funding through the Enterprise Zone program in support of both Lubbering Corporation and RSJ Technologies. Competitive Grant funds come to the CBPA through the PA DCED and are utilized to provide low-interest

loan funding to businesses that repay the loans into the CBPA Revolving Loan Fund.

Lubbering Corporation is based in Troy Township and manufactures specialized components for the automotive and aerospace industries. Lubbering has been able to grow its market share through a reputation for high-quality manufacturing and strong customer service. The company currently has approximately 10 employees. Enterprise Zone funding was used to aid in machinery/equipment acquisition.

RSJ Technologies was formerly known as R&T Technologies and is based in Canton Borough. The company is a precision custom machining operation that utilizes CNC and traditional machining technology. RSJ Technologies custom-engineers and manufactures component parts for defense and industrial applications. The company's capabilities and quality have led to opportunities for sales growth. RSJ Technologies utilized Enterprise Zone funds to help with

new machinery purchases. The funding will help the company

grow to approximately 40 employees.



CBPA Director Tony Ventello wearing helmet and night vision goggles. The apparatus attaching the goggles is manufactured by RSJ Technologies in Canton.

CBPA Welcomes New Board Members



Chris Brown



Matt Ameigh

2008 saw two new members join the board of directors of the CBPA. Chris Brown of M & T Bank is our newest North Towanda Township member. Chris was appointed as a member-at-large, replacing Walter Becker who had served for 4 years.

Also welcomed was Matthew Ameigh of Craftmaster Manufacturing, filling the term of Robert Andzulis. Bob retired as Mill Manager and Mr. Ameigh was named as his replacement and recommended as a board member for the Wysox Township position.

We would like to welcome Chris and Matt to the board and look forward to working with them.



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Dual Electric Service Extended To Valley Business Park

A joint project involving Penelec and Tri-County Rural Electric is under construction to provide a redundant electric feed to Valley Business Park in Athens Township. A dual service will be provided from a separate substation. This helps to eliminate the possibility of damaging electrical outages in Valley Business Park. The project will particularly benefit Masco Retail Cabinet Group

(formerly known as Mill's Pride), a key hardwoods manufacturer in Bradford County.



Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Area Industries Receive Interoperability Emergency Communications Equipment

Prior to our area industries requesting the need to acquire specialized emergency management equipment for interoperability, CBPA staff had little knowledge of its function and importance.

Working through Senator Roger Madigan's office, \$75,000 of grant-in-aid was secured and expended for this vital equipment. This equipment allows all factions of emergency services such as police, fire, ambulance, industry, hazmat, etc. who function on separate radio frequencies to communicate with each other in the event of a disaster. This was a great impediment during the September 11th World Trade Center incident.

Grant funds have been used

to secure equipment for the following participants:

- *Bradford County EMA*
- *E. I. DuPont*
- *Global Tungsten Powders*
- *Craftmaster Manufacturing*
- *Leprino Foods Corp.*
- *Mills Pride*
- *Ingersoll Rand*
- *Greater Valley EMS*
- *Wester EMS*



Valley Business Park

Senator Gene Yaw Opens District Office



Senator Gene Yaw

Senator Gene Yaw recently opened an office in One Progress Plaza to serve his constituents in Bradford County and surrounding areas. Senator Yaw is occupying the same office space that was previously utilized by Senator Roger Madigan. The CBPA welcomes Senator Yaw to One Progress Plaza and looks forward to working closely with him on economic development issues in Bradford County.

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Army Corps Funds To Assist Wysox Water Extension

Congress Chris Carney was instrumental in securing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding for the extension of a water

line into Wysox Township. A public water line will cross the Susquehanna River and service the Route 6 commercial corridor.

The Congressman presented a ceremonial check to representatives of the Towanda Municipal Authority and Wysox Municipal

Authority, as the two organizations are working together to complete this project.



Left to right: Bill Shaw, TMA/Monroeton Borough; Dick Schmieg, TMA/N. Towanda Twp.; Charlotte Sullivan, TMA/Towanda Twp.; Mike Walsh, TMA/Towanda Borough; Tina Pickett; Gary Foster, Wysox Twp.; Congressman Carney; Bob Williams, WTMA; Wilbur Beers, WTMA; Jim Lenox, WTMA; Fred Johnson, TMA; Paul DeWitt, TMA/Towanda Borough.

CBPA Approved For Marketing Grant

The Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development recently announced that the CBPA was approved for a Regional Investment Marketing (RIM) grant. The CBPA submitted a funding application as a joint venture between Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties. RIM funding is intended to be used to allow the CBPA to directly market these counties and their attributes to targeted industries as an effort to attract new businesses to this region. The CBPA is excited to be able to utilize the RIM resources to pursue companies to complement this region's economy.

Sayre Railyards Environmental Assessment Finalized

The CBPA has been pursuing environmental cleanup efforts at the 25-acre former Sayre Railyards site on Thomas Avenue in Sayre Borough. Utilizing funding from the US EPA and PA DCED, the CBPA recently completed the assessment process for the property. There is now a DEP-approved cleanup plan that will enable future reuse of the site for industrial development. To further remediation efforts, the CBPA recently submitted an application for additional cleanup funds from EPA.

CBPA Loan Program Activity

The CBPA administers a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to help support local business development projects. Low-interest loan financing is typically blended with private funding to reduce risk and make projects more financially viable. The CBPA's loan fund was created through funding provided by the state's Enterprise Zone program, and additional funding for rural areas of Bradford County was provided through a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG). Several projects received loan funds in the past year:

Frontier Industrial Technologies accommodated business growth by expanding its facility in North Towanda Township with the assistance of the CBPA Revolving Loan Fund.

Hurley's Supermarket in North Towanda Township expanded its facility and products with CBPA loan funding providing a portion of the project costs.

Towanda Metadyne, Inc. in Towanda Township received CBPA RLF funding to help with costs for acquisition of machinery that will help the company manufacture mining tools.

Rook Family Eyecare utilized the CBPA's RBEG loan fund to help with construction costs for its new facility along Route 14 south of Canton and now offers expanded optometry services.

COS Wireless in Athens Township received CBPA RLF funding to help remodel a facility to house its business along Route 220.

CraftMaster Manufacturing Inc. undertook a facility-wide energy efficiency lighting upgrade at its hardwoods plant in Wysox Township with assistance from the CBPA RLF.



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HUD Funding Received For Redevelopment



Congressman Chris Carney secured funding through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development for redevelopment efforts in Bradford County. The Congressman visited Troy to present a check to the CBPA and the Boroughs of Canton, Troy, and Towanda. The CBPA is utilizing the funding for redevelopment efforts at the former Preston Mill building in Canton, the former Penn-Troy building in Troy, and the former Bern Building in Towanda. The CBPA and all three impacted communities are very appreciative of Congressman Carney's efforts.



From left to right: Towanda Borough Manager Tom Fairchild, Troy Borough Manager Dan Close, Congressman Chris Carney, Canton Borough Manager Amy Seeley, CBPA Economic Development Manager Brian Driscoll.