

MOSHANNON VALLEY PROGRESS

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Inside this issue:

MVEDP Recognized for 35 Years of Service to the Area	1
The GEO Group, Inc. Named Employer of the Year by the MVEDP	1
Executive Director's Message	1
Spotlight on Business CUU10	5
MVEDP Annual Dinner Highlight Photos	5
Welcome New Member	6
Thank You Members	6
Thank You to the Sponsors of the MVEDP's 33rd Annual Dinner	6
MVEDP Pursues Zoning Change in Rush Township	6
MVEDP Executes Agreement of Sale to Purchase Property for Possible Business Park	7
MVED: Selects EADS Group to do Site Development Feasibility Study	7
MVEDP Sets its Interest Rate on Its Loan Program	7
MVEDP Board of Directors FY 2023	7
Renovations Completed at the Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center	8

MVEDP Recognized for 35 Years of Service to the Area



Pictured, front row: Wanda Ryen, Karen Blair, Eric Rusnak of the PRC, Bryan Bennett, Jim Pollock, Bob Steward, Jr., and Robert Maltais, Pictured Back row: Jeff Herr, Stan LaFuria, John Shimko, Rusty Christoff, and Bill Jones

At the 33rd annual awards dinner of the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership, the Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation recognized the MVEDP for 35 years of service to the Moshannon Valley region. “We appreciate the recognition from the PRC,” said Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the MVEDP. “We are very fortunate to have a very experienced and

Continued on Page 3

The GEO Group, Inc. Named Employer of the Year by the MVEDP

At their 33rd annual dinner meeting held Thursday, April 27th, the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership presented its Employer of the Year award to The GEO Group, Inc.

Continued on Page 2

Executive Director's Message



I was pleased to participate in our 33rd annual awards event held Thursday, April 27th. The View was our chosen location and it turned out to be a very good fit for our event. Thank you to owners Tammy and Brian Malinich.

Continued on Page 3

The GEO Group, Inc.

Continued from Page 1



GEO Photo: pictured is Stephen Spaulding, Assistant Facility Administrator, Charis Proud, Business Manager, Leonard Oddo, Facility Administrator, and Emanuel Barr, V.P. of Community and Government Relations.

The GEO Group, Inc. owns and operates the Moshannon Valley ICE processing center located in Decatur Township.

“We are pleased to recognize The GEO Group, Inc. as our employer of the year, said Karen Blair, 1st Vice President of the MVEDP board of directors. “This company has made a tremendous impact on our area economy, with taxes paid, living wage jobs, and the millions spent each year with other businesses in the area,” she said.

Approximately 80 people attended the annual dinner meeting on April 27th. The event was held at The View. Businesses from throughout Centre and Clearfield County were represented as well as county commissioners from both counties. Sponsors of the event included CNB Bank, Fulton Bank, Juniata Valley Bank, and Mid Penn Bank.

“The Partnership is now 35 years old and we have held 33 annual dinner events,” said Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the MVEDP. We did not hold our dinners during the first two years of the COVID 19 epidemic,” he said.

Also at the dinner, the Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation honored the MVEDP for the 35 years that the MVEDP has been providing economic development, community development and chamber of commerce services to the region. Eric Rusnak, President of the PRC board of directors, provided an update on the work of the PRC and assisted in presenting the award to the MVEDP.

“It is great for the MVEDP to be recognized for our work over the past 35 years,” said LaFuria. During his acceptance remarks, LaFuria commented about the distressed and depressed economy that existed here in the 1980s and 90s. “For years at that time, any positive press release that we would submit to the media would eventually still lead to statements about the depressed economy here.

And now, 35 years later, we have here the GEO/Moshannon Valley Processing Center, Walmart Distribution Center, Houtzdale SCI, Cen Clear, the CIU10, Diamondback Truck Covers, Lee Industries, Advanced Powder Products, PMG Pennsylvania Corporation, Organic Climbing, REICHdrill, UMI Performance, Drucker Diagnostics, an expanded Windy Hill Village, and numerous other small businesses here that have very much changed our economy for the better,” he said.

“We can’t say enough about the significance of The GEO Group to our region,” said LaFuria. “Their current employment is over 335, they are the largest taxpayer in the Philipsburg-Osceola School District, and they spent \$32.9 million in 2022 on employee salaries, taxes, and with other area businesses. We are pleased and proud to have The GEO Group here in our area. There were so many people that worked diligently to keep the original Cornell Companies project on track here over the seven-year period between the 1999 groundbreaking ceremony and its opening in May 2006. All the local elected officials, citizens of the area that supported the project, and the MVEDP’s board of directors that wanted this project in this area should be recognized at this time,” he said.

MVEDP Recognized for 35 Years of Service to the Area

Continued from Page 1



talented board of directors. They are dedicated to enhancing the economy of the region by providing private sector businesses the tools that they need to grow and expand. The leadership of the companies do the heavy lifting with

their work to grow their companies, and the MVEDP is available if they need our assistance,” he said.

“It is also very interesting to receive the award from the PRC,” said LaFuria. “It was the MVEDP that resurrected the PRC from dormancy at the time that we applied to be an official Main Street community in 1996/97. The business community of this area was very supportive of this effort as they contributed the matching funds needed to secure the state Main Street program funding,” he said.

The MVEDP is a private, non-profit economic development and chamber of commerce organization that was formed in 1988. The business community of the greater Philipsburg/Moshannon Valley region supported the creation of this organization by donating over \$100,000 to get the MVEDP started.

Projects of the MVEDP have included the Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center, Moshannon Valley Regional Business Center, Moshannon Valley Regional Business Park, Moshannon Valley Enterprise Park, Moshannon Valley Revolving Loan Fund Program, and the Philipsburg Area Commerce Park. The MVEDP has always had an open-armed approach to economic development, with a willingness to get involved in any project that will improve the Moshannon Valley region.

Executive Director’s Message

Continued from Page 1

We always appreciate the opportunity to update the business community on our work activities, and to recognize other folks in the area that are making a difference here. Our Employer of the Year for FY 2023: The GEO Group, Inc., the Moshannon Valley Processing Center

The story of The GEO Group, Inc goes back to 1998 when the MVEDP first learned from a friend in Harrisburg that the federal government was issuing a request for proposals from private corrections companies to build a facility within 300 miles of Washington, DC. Cornell Companies had a presence in Pennsylvania so we contacted David Cornell, President of Cornell Companies. A site was found here for their proposed facility with the help of numerous township officials that also wanted the facility to be located here in the Moshannon Valley area.

Cornell Companies was selected by the federal government to site their facility here in the greater Philipsburg area. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in 1999 and construction was started. But then construction was shut down and it was not until seven years later, in May 2006, that the new Cornell facility was activated. That seven-year period was a bit exhausting as local leaders worked tirelessly with both state and federal government to keep the project on track. It was in April 2010 when we learned that Cornell Companies was merging with The GEO Group, Inc. and it would be The GEO Group that became the owner of this facility.

For the MVEDP, attracting Cornell Companies here was always about the JOB OPPORTUNITIES that they would bring to the area. The economy here in the 1980s and 1990s was very difficult with many closings of coal companies, garment manufacturers, and the General Cigar Company. The per capita income number for the Moshannon Valley region was lower than that of all 67 Pennsylvania counties.

While researching the successful recruitment of Cornell Companies/The GEO Group and the history since 1998, one thing was very clear: there were many people that had a hand in making sure that the project became a reality. Local residents, township officials, the MVEDP board of directors and staff, and our state and federal elected officials all had a hand in this success. We wish to thank everyone again for the support and the work that went into ensuring that the over 270 jobs would be located right here in the Moshannon Valley.

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“Spotlight on Business” CIU10



The MVEDP is pleased to feature the Central Intermediate Unit 10 in this Spotlight on Business feature. The Moshannon Valley region has numerous and diverse types of businesses that make up the area’s economy. Having the CIU 10 here in the Moshannon Valley region has always been very beneficial to the local economy.

The Central Intermediate Unit 10 was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1971 to serve the educational needs of public and non-public schools in Centre, Clearfield, and Clinton counties in the fields of student services, special education, education planning, and technology. Our mission is to provide innovative and engaging services, for learners from birth to adult, which support equal access to educational opportunities. With a vision of strategic partnerships promoting equity, access and innovative educational services for all, CIU 10 supports 24,000 + students in a three county region.

Over the years, the CIU 10 has expanded our services focusing on the unique needs of students, families, and educators in Centre, Clearfield, and Clinton counties and across the Commonwealth. Our highly skilled and dedicated staff support 12 school districts, four career and technology centers, four charter schools, and numerous non-public schools within the three county region. Additionally, CIU 10 operates the Development Center for Adults which offers free adult basic education and career readiness services and a pathway to the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma, also known as the GED. CIU 10 serves our youngest learners with our Pre School Early Intervention services and supports. As one of 29 intermediate units in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we work collaboratively on the local, regional, and state level to support students, families and our communities.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, we are proud to be part of the work that is done in this region. Please feel free to visit our website at www.ciu10.org for more information.

MVEDP’s 33rd Annual Dinner Highlight Photos



Welcome New Member!

Keller Williams—Rob Miller Real Estate, LLC
 220 E. Presqueisle Street
 Philipsburg, PA 16866
 Contact: Rob Miller
 Phone: 814-571-3391

Thank You Members

The Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership thanks you for your support of our economic & community development efforts!

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Thank you to the Sponsors of the MVEDP's 33rd Annual Awards Dinner

On Behalf of the staff and board of directors of the MVEDP, we wish to thank the four banks that sponsored the MVEDP's 33rd annual awards dinner held on April 27th.



Fulton Bank



MVEDP Pursues Zoning Change in Rush Township

The MVEDP is hoping to one day develop a new business park to serve this region for the next twenty years. The MVEDP has committed to a site in Rush Township along PA Route 350, and that site is currently zoned Residential. There are two key considerations to any development of a site: will there be access to sanitary sewer service, and, does the zoning fit the intended use of the site?

Since the Rt. 350 site is currently zoned Residential, the MVEDP has petitioned Rush Township to approve a zoning change of that site. A zoning change to Business Park or Commercial/Industrial is needed for the development of a business park at that location. Rush Township has scheduled the public meeting to gather the public's input on the proposed change to the zoning.

The MVEDP thanks the Rush Township board of supervisors and the township engineer Michelle Merrow for their assistance through this zoning change process.

MVEDP Executes Agreement of Sale to Purchase Property for Possible Business Park

On February 28, 2023, the MVEDP executed an Agreement of Sale to purchase a 171-acre parcel of land along PA Route 350 across the road from the Glass City entrance. The land was formerly a coal mine site with both surface and deep mining activity at that location.

The MVEDP's goal is to develop a site that will serve the economic development needs of this region for the next 20 years. There are at least eight contingencies to the sale including a zoning change, sanitary sewer service, and environmental reviews to name three. The MVEDP hopes to know by August whether this site should be purchased, and a business park developed there.

MVEDP Selects The EADS Group to Do Site Development Feasibility Study

The MVEDP had great success with its Moshannon Valley Regional Business Park. Millions of dollars in property and payroll taxes are being paid to the government each year by the businesses located within the MVRBP, to say nothing about the 525 jobs that are located there.

The MVEDP's board of directors wants to replicate the success of the MVRBP by developing another property into a business park. In late February, the MVEDP executed an Agreement of Sale to purchase a 171-acre property located along PA Route 350 across the road from the entrance to Glass City.

A site development feasibility study of the site must be completed for the MVEDP to know the development potential of this site. The MVEDP solicited engineers to submit their proposals and six firms did in fact submit a proposal to do this important job.

Continued on Page 8

MVEDP Sets the Interest Rate On Its Loan Program

The MVEDP's Revolving Loan Fund Program has been available to local businesses since 1991. This matching loan funding can be used for working capital, machinery and equipment purchases, and for land acquisitions and building projects.

The new interest rate for the program **has been set at 4%**. Jeff Herr is the chairman of the MVEDP's revolving loan fund committee. Other loan committee members include: Bill Jones, Rusty Christoff, Dustin Minarchick, Bryan Bennett, Jim Pollock, and Gary Turner

One of the best features of the RLF program is its quick turnaround time. Once a completed application is received by the MVEDP, a meeting of the committee is called and if the loan is approved, the loan proceeds can be available to the borrower in less than 30 days.

Contact the MVEDP office at 342-2260 if you have a business that needs matching loan financing for a project.

MVEDP Board of Directors FY 2023

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Dr. Robert Steward, Jr.	Board Member
John Shimko	Board Member
Rusty Christoff	Board Member
Josiah Jones	Board Member
Robert Maltais	Board Member

MVEDP Selects The EADS Group

Continued from Page 7

MVEDP board member and past president Steve Lynch is a professional engineer himself. The MVEDP was very fortunate to have Steve involved in reviewing the six proposals. He was also involved in interviewing three of the engineering firms.

After careful consideration, the MVEDP board of directors selected The EADS Group of the Altoona area to perform the site development feasibility study. This work will identify whether this 171-acre site can be developed into a business park at a cost that will enable the selling price of the lots to fit the market conditions here in the greater Philipsburg/Moshannon Valley region. This study might reveal that the site cannot be developed at a reasonable cost. However, if the analysis reveals that the site can be developed at a reasonable cost, then the MVEDP will most likely move forward with development provided that funding can be secured.

Renovations Completed at the Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center

The MVEDP recently had two projects completed at the Enterprise Center. The projects were needed because of some damage that occurred when a sprinkler line broke during the -20 wind-chill temperatures of late December. The two areas were not occupied so there was very little heat in those two areas allowing the water line to break.

Walls were rebuilt, ceiling tiles replaced and new flooring installed throughout the two office areas. Carpet One of Clearfield was involved in the project as they installed new carpet in one area and a new wood floor in the other.



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