

MOSHANNON VALLEY PROGRESS

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Executive Director's Message



In the September 2022 edition of our "Moshannon Valley Progress" newsletter, we wrote about the excellent work of

Philipsburg Borough to address dilapidated properties in the borough. The Borough used the power of eminent domain to acquire the former 6th Street School property, and to demolish most of the building space at that site. It was even better news to learn that the CIU10 organization purchased that property for the home of their new administrative facility.

Fast forward to May of this year when the MVEDP learned that we would be needed to assist the Borough and Lee Industries in a project to get Borough properties to Lee Industries. The Borough had once again used eminent domain to acquire and clear four properties along Presqueisle and Water Streets. By law, a private, non-profit economic and community development organization like the MVEDP could acquire the properties from the Borough, and then sell them to a private company like Lee Industries.

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MVEDP Seeks Candidates for Board of Directors Election

It's that time of year when the MVEDP solicits our members for names of candidates that would be interested in running for a seat on our board of directors. We have a board of 15 people. Each year, five of the board members come up for re-election if they want to continue to serve on the board. We have learned that all five of the current board members want to be on the ballot to run for a new three-year term. The five board members that will be on the ballot include: Bryan Bennett, Steve Lyncha, Dustin Minarchick, Dr. Bob Steward, Jr., and Eric White.

If you are interested in running for a seat on the board, or if you know of someone that would be a good candidate, please contact our office. The dues-paying members of the MVEDP have been notified of this election and have been given until Friday, September 1st to submit any names.

MVEDP Continues Site Development Feasibility Work – Rt. 350 Site

In the Spring edition of our newsletter, the MVEDP informed its members and the community that it is now involved in a site development feasibility assessment effort. Basically, we are trying to determine the development potential of a 171-acre site

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Executive Director's Message Continued from Page 1

There was no need for much discussion when we learned that we could partner with the Borough and Lee Industries to get the properties to this long-time local company. The MVEDP has been a partner with Lee Industries since we were first created in 1988. In 1991, we worked to secure two state loans for them to almost double the size of their manufacturing plant. Over \$2.3 million in loans were secured through the MVEDP office.

Key to this discussion was the willingness of Josh Montler, President of Lee Industries to pay an amount for the four properties that was equal to the amount of money that the Borough had spent on the properties for acquisition and demolition costs. This amount was \$270,000.00. What is really great about this payment to the Borough is that this money can now be used by the Borough for other projects. Taxpayer-provided funding made the acquisition/demolition possible, and now the taxpayers have been paid back for their investment in those properties.

The MVEDP's job #1 is to work with the existing businesses in the Moshannon Valley region like Lee Industries. Helping entrepreneurs to start new businesses and working to attract outside businesses are our other top priorities. It was our job to assist in making the deal happen for Lee Industries, and we were NOT paid a fee for our work. We didn't require it. Getting the four properties to Lee Industries was much more important to us than collecting a fee. Thank you to Joel Watson, Shelley Walstrom and Philipsburg Borough Council for your great work on this project.

Available Office Space for Lease!



The MVEDP currently has office space available at the Moshannon Valley Regional Business Center. Contact Stan LaFuria at the MVEDP to secure more information about the available space. Call: 1-814-342-2260 or email: slafuria@mvedp.org.

MVEDP's FY 2022 Financials Audited – Another “Clean” Audit

The MVEDP's board of directors has the MVEDP's financial records audited every year. Audits have been prepared since 1988. The MVEDP hired the firm Young Oaks Brown (YOB) of the Altoona region to complete the audit of its 2022 financials. The audit was completed and presented to the board of directors at their meeting of June 20th. Dave Scott, CPA with YOB, attended the meeting and presented the audit. One of his comments to the board was that the organization was lucky to have the dedicated staff that it has as he was impressed with the commitment of the staff in keeping accurate financial records.

MVEDP Continues Site Development Feasibility Work – Rt. 350 Site Continued from Page 1



located along Rt. 350 across the road from the Glass City entrance. An engineering firm is always needed to determine development feasibility and costs so The EADS Group has been hired.

There are several issues with the Rt. 350 site including: inappropriate zoning classification, lack of public sewer, lack of access to Phoenix Road at the back end of the property, wetlands, streams, mining issues, and topography change concerns.

Continued on Page 3

MVEDP Comments About Lithium Ion Battery Manufacturing Facility Proposal

In late May, a significant headline appeared in the Centre Daily Times, “\$50 Million Lithium-Ion Battery Factory Proposed in Philipsburg.” The MVEDP staff was contacted about this proposal weeks before the announcement was made and the MVEDP’s board of directors had a chance to review it also.

EC Power is a research and development firm headquartered in State College. Since April 2017, this company has also operated a facility within the MVEDP’s Moshannon Valley Enterprise Center. This company is proposing to establish a consortium with Flux Power, a company based in southern California. A federal matching grant of \$25 million has been applied for through the U.S. Department of Energy. If that grant is approved, the consortium will look to establish a production facility somewhere within the Philipsburg/Moshannon Valley region.

The MVEDP’s board of directors reviewed the EC Power/Flux Power proposal at its meeting of June 20th. The board was informed that the MVEDP and others were asked to provide letters of support for the project. Congressman Glenn Thompson had been contacted too. The Philipsburg/Moshannon Valley region was selected because the federal government wants to locate this project in an area that has been negatively impacted by the loss of coal mining.

The project hinges completely on the receipt of the \$25 million federal DOE grant. Should the company officials receive funding approval, the MVEDP will do everything that it can to get their production facility established within the Moshannon Valley region.

Congratulations to Diamondback Truck Covers



Diamondback Truck Covers just celebrated their 20th anniversary. The MVEDP congratulates Ethan Wendle, Matt Chverchko, Ben Eltz and other company leaders for the work that they did to start and grow this manufacturing business. Matt was recently asked about their experience in Philipsburg. “Philipsburg’s been a great place to grow a business and raise kids,” he said.

“We’ve always been happy here.” He said that he appreciates that Philipsburg is safe, rural, and that the MVEDP helped Diamondback grow into the manufacturing powerhouse it is today. Thank you Matt for your positive comment about the MVEDP and for the heavy lifting that you did to create and grow your company here in the greater Philipsburg region. Outstanding.

MVEDP Continues Site Development Feasibility Work – Rt. 350 Site Continued from Page 2

The MVEDP is willing to spend more time and money on an evaluation of the site but we first must secure the Seller’s approval to extend the expiration date of the Agreement of Sale.

The current expiration date is August 31st. The MVEDP needs a minimum of three more months to have additional feasibility work completed including an identification of the cost of bringing all infrastructure to the site, and the number of developable acres that will be available upon completion of the project. The MVEDP is awaiting word from the Seller regarding the extension.

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Spotlight on Business – UMI Performance, Inc.



The Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership is proud to be a partner with many businesses throughout the Moshannon Valley region. Our Spotlight on Business features are intended to provide the public with additional information about the businesses that call this area home.

UMI Performance, Inc. was started in late 2002, and officially incorporated in May 2003. The company is owned by Ryan Kirkwood and is located in Rush Township at the site of the former Shain Shop/Bilt plant. Their facility is approximately 35,000 square feet and the company currently employs 49 people.

Just nine years ago, the company employed 30 people, so the company continues to grow to meet market and customer demands. UMI's customers are located across the world as products are shipped to all ends of the globe.

UMI Performance is a leading brand in the automotive aftermarket industry specializing in the manufacturing of high-performance suspension components and accessories. The company manufactures sway bars, control arms, subframe connectors, chassis parts, and many others. It was in 2002 when Mr. Kirkwood began to build a few automobile chassis components for friends while working in his father's machine shop. He began to identify a large demand for suspension and chassis products, and he believed that the market was lacking options and full of highly priced items that he thought he could manufacture at a more reasonable cost.

Mr. Kirkwood has a great team at his company including Jill Irwin, Chief Financial Officer, Ramey Womer, Product Engineer, Jerry Mondock, Plant Manager, and Marshal Aloji, Inventory and Plant Manager. Ryan credits the quality of his team with enabling the company to grow and handle changes in market conditions.

The UMI Performance facility features CNC machining, both milling and turning CNCs, band sawing, press brake operation, MIG and TIG welding, plasma cutting and powder coating. The company manufactures their products from start to finish: from raw 24-foot bars of tubing to a finished product sold to their customers. All within their Philipsburg area manufacturing facility. The company has always been very proud of their place in the Made in the USA movement.

Welcome New Members!

Pizza Hut

952 N. Front Street
 Philipsburg, PA 16866
 814-342-1980

Thompson Law Office, LLC

1216 Walton Street
 Philipsburg, PA 16866
 814-342-4100
 David R. Thompson, Esq.
 Brian Jones, Esq.

Thank You Members

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

Renewals 2nd Quarter

- Ace Hardware Company
- Belding & Mull, Inc.
- Big Rock Swing & Ping
- Boggs Township
- BPOE #1173
- C Classic Dodge Chrysler Jeep
- Cen Clear Child Services
- Central Steamer
- Centre County United Way
- Certified Builders Wholesale
- Charles A. Jones Insurance Agency
- Chester Hill Borough
- Clemmer Fire Protection, Inc.
- CMT Laboratories, Inc.
- CNB Bank
- Coleman’s Asphalt Seal Coating

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Availability of Small Business Advantage Grant

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting applications to distribute a minimum of \$1 million dollars that is currently available. The 2023 Small Business Advantage Grant is now available.

The purpose of this grant program is to provide small businesses in Pennsylvania with grant funds for projects that increase energy efficiency, reduce pollution, or protect our waterways. Many different types of small businesses, from manufacturing to retail to agriculture, may be eligible for funding under this program. Funding is awarded first-come, first served so interested applicants should act fast!

All program documents, including Program Guidelines and a Grant Calculator, are available on the Small Business Advantage Grant Website. There is also a link on the website to the online application system used to apply for the grant. Additionally, there are tutorial videos available for everything from an overview of the program to using the Grant Calculator for specific project types.

Maximum grant awards will vary based on the attributes of a project as shown in the chart below. Projects will be eligible for more funding if they are located in Environmental Justice areas or reduce CO2e by at least 20 tons (as calculated by the Grant Calculator).

2024-2024 Funding Levels			
Project Attributes	Whichever is less, up to:		
All Eligible Projects	50%	or	\$5,000
Eligible and located in Environmental Justice Area	65%	or	\$6,500
Eligible and significant environmental savings	65%	or	\$6,500
Eligible, located in Environmental Justice Area, and significant environmental savings	80%	or	\$8,000

The 2023-2024 Small Business Advantage Grant Program will open for applications on August 18, 2023. Project work completed on or after July 1, 2023 will be considered for funding. The application period will close when funding is exhausted or March 22, 2024, whichever occurs first.

Thank You Members

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Conklin's Corner Antique Mall & Gift Shop
 Cutting Edge Machining Solutions
 Diamondback Automotive
 Dixoncom, LLC
 Douglas Explosives, Inc.
 Foxpro, Inc.
 Fulton Bank
 Geo Tech Engineering, Inc.
 Genna Inc, Inc.
 Happy Valley Adventure Bureau
 Happy Valley Mini Golf
 Harpster of Philipsburg
 Juniata Valley Bank
 Keller Engineers
 Lee Industries, Inc.
 Lewis Paving & Sealing, Inc.
 Long Motor Buses, Inc.
 Mid Penn Bank
 Mike Baron
 Moshannon Valley Pharmacy
 Natafo, LLC
 PA American Water Company
 Philipsburg Beverage, Inc.
 Philipsburg Kiwanis Club
 Philipsburg Marble & Granite
 Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation, Inc.
 Philipsburg True Value
 RC Bowman, Inc.
 Rusty's Oil & Propane
 ShipItDone, LLC
 Snelick Construction Services, LLC
 The Philipsburg Journal
 Walter Hopkins & Company

SEDA-Council of Governments Official Visits Moshannon Valley

On June 29th, the MVEDP hosted Elizabeth Lockwood of the SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG) for tours and lunch in the Philipsburg/Moshannon Valley region. Ms. Lockwood is the Director of Project Development/Grants for SEDA-COG.

Ms. Lockwood has a great deal to do with how federal funding might be distributed to projects within the SEDA-COG region. The MVEDP wanted her to know about the Rt. 350 site and our work to determine the development feasibility of that site. Federal funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration, and the Appalachian Regional Commission is directed through SEDA-COG and then to local projects.

Ms. Lockwood has worked with the MVEDP over the past 20 years. She assisted in our effort to secure federal funding for our Moshannon Valley Regional Business Park project, and our Moshannon Valley Regional Business Center facility. She is currently involved with the leadership of the Moshannon Valley Emergency Medical Services in their work to build a new ambulance headquarters and training facility. A \$300,000 federal ARC grant is being targeted to their project. The MVEDP was pleased to be a part of that effort to secure that ARC grant, as well as the effort to secure a state grant of \$200,000 for their project.

MVEDP Revolving Loan Fund Program Still Available

The MVEDP's revolving loan fund program is still available to businesses located within the Moshannon Valley region. The MVEDP recently discussed the interest rate on the loans and have agreed to keep the rate at 4%.

Loans can be used for land and buildings, machinery and equipment and working capital. The MVEDP's Revolving Loan Fund Committee oversees this loan program. Members of the RLF Committee include: Chairman, Jeff Herr, Dustin Minarchick, Bryan Bennett, Jim Pollock, Rusty Christoff, Bill Jones and Gary Turner.

Chinese Company Visits Mid State Airport

Two officials of a Chinese company visited Mid-State Airport on Monday, June 26th. The MVEDP was represented as well as Greg Scott, President of the CBICC in Centre County, and Lauren Bryson of the Focus Central Pennsylvania organization. Mr. Scott and Ms. Bryson toured the Chinese officials around other sites within Centre County. After considering the properties, the Chinese company officials identified their interest in the Mid State Airport site. Unfortunately, it does not appear that the Mid State Airport Authority will be able to work a deal with this company because all of its buildings are currently under lease.

Both the CBICC and the MVEDP now plan to begin additional discussions and investigation into the future development potential of Mid State Airport.

MVEDP Board of Directors FY 2023

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