

PULASKI COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Pulaski County, Indiana

Achievements 2007

Direct Involvement. Activities in which the CDC board and director were involved as originator and executor. Results and outcomes solely the result of CDC action with or without subcontractors.

County-wide land use plan initiative. After many years education, discussion, and debate the county commissioners called for the forming of a comprehensive plan commission. The CDC land use initiative will lead to the first ever Pulaski County comprehensive plan and ultimately to a county-side zoning ordinance. The lack of these two items (comprehensive plan and zoning) has been pointed out many times over the years as one of the major obstacles to thoughtful development in Pulaski County. The CDC will continue to offer its assistance to the plan commission so that these initiatives can be brought to fruition.

CDC Strategic Plan update. Taking the original strategic plan developed in 2004 the CDC board spent over six months reviewing goals and objectives. Not without controversy, the updated plan was adopted in June. It is used by the director to focus his efforts and by the board to gauge progress.

Medaryville Brownfield grant. The CDC wrote a grant application and submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for the remediation of an abandoned gas station in Medaryville. The grant was approved.

Investigated the need for and sought approval of the paving of a .6 mile section of road in southwestern Pulaski County in support of a commercial operation.

Prepared and submitted a grant application to the Indiana Department of Economic Development for the partial reimbursement of expenses incurred in the Shovel Ready program. Grant was approved.

Prepared and submitted a grant on behalf of the Star City Lions Club to the community foundation. This was in support of an upgrade to the Star City Park. Grant was approved.

Panhandle Pathway marketing/ publicity materials. Assisted the local rails-to-trails group with marketing materials promoting the project. This is a tourism initiative. The CDC board also approved a \$500 donation (from donated ((non-tax)) funds) in support of the group's non-profit organization.

Collaborative Involvements. Efforts undertaken by the CDC with partner agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Shovel Ready certification. In collaboration with the Winamac Industrial Park board secretary prepared and submitted an application to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation for Shovel Ready certification for the park. Certification was awarded in October 2007. The Winamac Industrial Park is now one of thirty such certified industrial parks in the state. This certification ensures prospective developers that their project can break ground within thirty days of commitment. Certification further means the state will promote Winamac's along with the other certified industrial parks in its various marketing programs within and outside of the state.

Welder training. In pursuit of this workforce development goal, the CDC continued its support of the program in collaboration with PACE and the Pulaski County Purdue Extension office. The CDC was co-sponsor of a grant application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs to fund an advanced welder training program. The grant request was approved and the classes begun in April 2007. This program is an expansion of the basic welder training classes begun in 2005. As of December 31, 2007, 107 have graduated from the basic program, and 27 from the advanced.

Chicago Industrial Properties Conference. Attended this two day conference and exposition featuring Northwest Indiana commercial opportunities. Distributed brochures and information related to industrial properties available (and potentially available) in Pulaski County. This is a long term activity, the results of which may not be readily apparent in the short term, but necessary to the promotion of Pulaski County.

Pulaski County tourism. Sponsored a request of the County Council for additional funding of the chamber's tourism program with economic development funds. Request approved.

Support. Activities involving often intangible effort to help another achieve an end.

Assisted USDA Rural Housing Service Programs representative in promoting the agency's services in 2007. As a result of this promotion the agency reports there were seven loan applications from Pulaski County. From these, thus far have come one direct (subsidized) loan, one guaranteed loan through a local bank, and one pending home repair loan. Promotion of these programs will be an ongoing goal of the CDC.

Assisted and coordinated the tax abatement applications for two Winamac manufacturers. Applications approved resulting in \$1,743,000 in capital investments, eight jobs created, and 19 retained.

Provided support for a west side employer's application for state training grant funds and tax credits in support of its business expansion.

Assisted and coordinated the application of a west side employer for an expansion loan from the county's revolving loan fund. Application approved.

CDC Achievements 2007

Provided support, encouragement, and direct participation in a Recreational Trails Program grant application from the Friends of the Panhandle Pathway. The grant (\$150,000) was approved.

Organized events in support of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana historic site survey of Pulaski County and grant funding effort. Once completed the survey will be a key factor in processing future state and federal grant applications submitted by the county. The survey will also provide residents with a compilation of Pulaski County historical architectural data never before available.

Assisted the county recycling center and Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District in the preparation of an Indiana Recycling Grant application to the Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance. The grant request, to purchase a new wastepaper baler, was approved.