Rebuilding Rural Coal Region through Environmental Justice
Shamokin’s Issues:

• POPULATION – then and now
• TEXTILE INDUSTRY
• MINING INDUSTRY
• ACT 47
• ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREA
Shamokin: Then and Now

EAGLE SILK MILL

MILL SQUARE
SHROYER’S DRESS FACTORY
Shamokin: Then and Now

GLEN BURN COLLIERY

CULM BANK
Shamokin Creek and Carbon Run

ABANDONED MINE DRAINAGE

SHAMOKIN CREEK/CARBON RUN CONFLUENCE
• City cannot get a bank loan to pay $800,000 worth of bills
• May 2014 applied to DCED’s ACT 47 Program
• June 2014 DCED declared the City a distressed municipality and accepted into the Program
• DCED ACT 47 Coordinator appointed to formulate financial recovery plan
• Northumberland County Planning and Economic Development
• Bucknell University’s Center for Sustainability and Environment
  • Coal Region Field Station partners students with community engagement and revitalization
• Faith Alliance for Revitalization
• Shamokin Businesses for Economic Revitalization
• SEDA Council of Governments
• DEP
• EPA
Shamokin Businesses for Economic Revitalization (SABER)
Faith Alliance for Revitalization
- EPA to provide up to $1.5 million annually for grants, up to $20,000, for brownfields assistance.

- Provide support to small and disadvantaged communities. “Small” = Less than 15,000 population; “Disadvantaged” = Annual median household income <80% of statewide median household income.
Shamokin EPA Brownfields Grant Details

- DEP included a grant request to assist Shamokin under this initiative as part of application for EPA brownfields state funding for FY19-20.

- The grant request was prepared by Northumberland County in consultation with DEP.
Scope of Work: Shamokin Brownfields

• Meet with city and citizens/local business community to discuss needs from the brownfields grant.  
  Completed

• DEP HSCA contractor to produce an inventory of brownfields in Shamokin using community information 
  and DEP and along with other resources.  
  Underway

• Collaborate with Bucknell University’s Center for Sustainability and Environment Coal Region Field Station.  
  Underway

• Work result will have two ratings:  
  1) Develop ranking of sites based on location, risk posed by site, community needs, local land use, 
    development potential, etc. in consultation with city and community.  
    Next step

• Final Report prepared in late summer 2020.  Provide results to city and community for their 
  consideration.

• Coordinate with other brownfields/revitalization projects in the city.

• Identify next steps including funding sources.
2019 – Shamokin - received

2020 – Darby Borough – submitted

2021 – ?????
So, how did all this happen and where do we go from here?
Where to Start …

• Starts with the community

• Engage local, state, and federal government and officials

• Pursue funding/grant resources

• Implement outcomes and “keep the ball rolling”

If you want to change the future, you must change what you are doing in the present.
Mark Twain
Shamokin Revitalization Plan community engagement coordinated with EPA’s Environmental Justice Program’s “Rebuilding our Community” workshops.
  - Sessions held Feb. 11 -13, 2020

Results of Brownfields Inventory grant will be;
  - Incorporated into Revitalization Plan
  - Potential basis for additional brownfield grant funding.
  - Build interest in brownfields in community and encourage brownfields redevelopment (ISRP grants other redevelopment projects in community)

Coordinate with surrounding municipalities, other levels of government, nearby business entities and attractions
Recent news headlines about revitalization/brownfields in Shamokin.

• Geisinger to build $8M medical complex in Shamokin.

• Gordner: New hotel and health care facility coming to Shamokin.

• State Grant Money to help with community revitalization.
Resources

• Brownfields Inventory Grant

• Shamokin Area Partnership for Revitalization – proposal for contract to develop revitalization plan for city

• ISRP grants

• Future grant applications.
There are many different funding sources available depending on the former, or current, use and/or the proposed future use of the site(s).

- Some funding is directed specifically to brownfield projects.
  - EPA brownfields funds, Industrial Site Reuse Program (ISRP) funds, ...

- Other funding sources may not be brownfield specific, but may still be used for site projects, if it meets the requirements of the potential funding source.
  - Recreation funds (DCNR), transportation funds (DOT), mine reclamation funds, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, ...

- State, local and federal government representatives may have funding resources or be able to offer assistance.

- Non-profits and businesses may also offer funding or support opportunities.
Proposals requested by **Shamokin Area Partnership for Revitalization**.
- Partnership is a collaboration of
  - City of Shamokin
  - Shamokin Area Businesses for Economic Revitalization (SABER)
  - SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG)

Plan will serve as the blueprint for future growth and economic development within the downtown for the next 5 years.

Includes data collection and analysis, issue identification, public and community participation, and the development of specific long- and short-range implementation strategies and programs.

Contractor retained and development of plan has started.
Industrial Sites Reuse Program (ISRP) is a partnership between DEP and DCED using Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) funds.

- **Purpose** - Provides funds for environmental assessment and remediation at sites where industrial activity was conducted prior to July of 1995.

- Provided grants for Phase I assessment of redevelopment projects in Shamokin.
  
  - Former hardware store – proposed Edison Jones Hotel
  
  - Former brewery bottling plant – proposed commercial/retail space
Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA)

- The Northumberland County AOAA Authority leases approximately 7,500 acres of coal lands in lower Northumberland County for the purposes of actively managing a family-friendly motorized and non-motorized recreation facility.

- AOAA Phase II projects recently:
  - AOAA Phase II Trailhead event area and additional parking (DCNR C2P2 Funding).
  - AOAA Non-Motorized Trailhead and trails (ACT 13 - Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Funding).
  - AOAA Carbon Run Headwaters project (ACT 13 - AMD Remediation Funding - DEP Growing Greener Funding).
It is never too early to start looking at next steps for the project, what resources are available and for the next funding source(s).

- Build on the initial grant and look at what the next priorities should be.
- Take advantage of available resources.
- Submit application for new grants, especially for assessment and potentially remediation of sites identified under the current small brownfield inventory grant.

  - By way of example, Clearfield County, on the other end of this DEP Region, is currently performing Phase II assessment activities under their EPA brownfields grant at a number of sites with potential commercial and recreational uses.

- Don’t pigeonhole your projects when it comes to funding.
Future Steps for Brownfields in Shamokin

• Continue involvement with all of the stakeholders

• Use brownfields inventory as starting point for new brownfields work and implement recommendations of Revitalization Plan.

• Apply for new grants
Thank You

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