A Drink and an Idea

Based on a True Story of how
West Virginia and Virginia Reunited
Bluefield, WV and VA
History of Bluefield

• Coal and rail boomed in the 1800s, fueling the industrial revolution
• Bluefield populations also boomed with a 300% increase between 1887-1888
• Coal industry peaked in the 1920s
Bustling Bluefield
Coal and then rail declined - coal mining jobs are over 85% less today than in 1920s

Population of the two Bluefields peaked in 1950 at 25,718

Today the population is 14,583 – a reduction of over 43%
Hope is Not Lost

• Bluefield Coalition
  • Town of Bluefield, VA
  • City of Bluefield, WV
  • Bluefield Industrial Development Authority
• Kickoff meeting in August 2018
• Applied for USEPA Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant in January 2019
Bluefield Projects

- **Focus on the Two Downtowns and Industrial / Manufacturing Areas**
- **7 Phase I Environmental Site Assessments**
- **8 Asbestos-Containing Material (ACM) and Lead-Based Paint (LBP) Surveys**
- **2 Phase II Environmental Site Assessments**
- **2 Cleanup Plans**
Intuit into Bluefield

- Coalition grant funded a Phase I ESA and ACM & LBP inspection of the former Summit Bank Building
- Intuit is investing over $7 million to renovate the building
- **250-500 jobs!**
Bluefield Iron & Metal

- Industrial Development Authority used a $42,500 grant from VA’s Brownfield Assistance Fund for Phase I & II
- Coalition grant will fund development of a Cleanup Plan
- IDA hopes to recruit light industrial or manufacturing companies
Bluefield Skyline

Stay tuned...

...More to come