

# Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth History and Milestones

## 2011 - JobsOhio (JO) starts up

- Adopts hub-and-spoke model working with six regional business-led partners
- Five regions have longstanding organizations to serve as partners, 25-county Appalachian region does not

## August 2011 - Foundation for Appalachian Ohio helps form APEG to partner with JO

- Regional business leaders group working on STEM education serves as core of founding board
- Board forms first-ever regionwide organization working on business retention, expansion and attraction

## February 2012 - Secure initial donations, execute funding contract for startup, initiate CEO search

## July 1, 2012 - CEO starts and begins assembling team

## July 2012 - ODSA issues regional contract for Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) to APEG

- Replaces failed previous effort to serve 28 Appalachian counties as satellite of metro-based MEP provider
- First APEG-provided program to serve small- to mid-sized companies

## October 1, 2012 - First JO and MEP program staff hired. Initial JO focus:

- Build relationships with Local Economic Development Organizations (LEDOs), assess needs/capacities
- Build strong project management program to handle leads, inquiries and projects
- Develop business retention/expansion program focused on 150 major companies in region
- Assess regional assets, opportunities and challenges, develop plans to market region and address challenges

## January 2013 - Launch Ohio River Initiative to market river's economic development potential

## August 2013 - Launch Southern Ohio Economic Development Professionals (EDP) capacity building group

- Quarterly meetings provide training, networking and relationship building forum

## September 2013 - Win \$2.1 million federal Make It In America (MIIA) grant competition to:

- Expand the region's economic development site inventory (in partnership with BHHVRDC<sup>1</sup>)
- Build capacity of region's small wood furniture manufacturers and identify supply chain opportunities
- Support workforce training for manufacturers

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<sup>1</sup> Buckeye Hills Hocking Valley Regional Development Commission

**January 2014 - Partner with EODA to launch shale development site marketing initiative**

**January 2014 - Design and launch Community Economic Development Academy with AEP support**

- 18 of 25 Counties participate - receive feedback on local efforts from expert site consultant
- 15 Counties complete academy and receive AEP grants to improve local sites
- AEP subsequently replicates program system-wide

**October 2014 - Contract for engineering studies to better document high-value river sites**

**January 2015 - Add Shale Energy and Site Coordinator positions and programs**

**September 2015 - Launch state-of-the-art GIS-enabled website to market Ohio river sites**

**September 2015 - Execute second contract for engineering studies - expand to include prime inland sites**

**September 2015 - Win competitive 5-year \$2.5 million SBA “innovation cluster” contract**

- Focuses on building wood products industry supply chain
- Emphasizes helping 1000+ small wood/forest products companies in region
- Goal to capture more value from prime hardwoods currently exported in lowest value forms

**December 2015 - Region receives first grant issued by JO Site Pilot Program grant**

- Three projects from region successfully compete and receive proportionate share of funding<sup>2</sup> (10%)

**2016 - Launch proactive business attraction and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) programs**

- January - Contract with 310 Ltd. for domestic lead generation
- January - Represent/market region during JO Canadian attraction mission (Toronto)
- April - Represent/market region during JO Hannover Messe mission (world’s largest industrial trade show)
- October - Conduct first APEG-only domestic market visit to attract companies
- November - Represent/market region’s shale assets during joint JO/APEG China petrochemical mission

**January, 2016 - Launch Eastern Ohio EDP capacity building group in partnership with EODA**

**April 1, 2016 - First to add Talent Acquisition Manager under JO Talent Acquisition Program**

**March 2017 - Site efforts lead to region receiving first SiteOhio certified site in state**

**August 2016 - Award research contract to identify wood products attraction opportunities in EU**

**September 2016 - Launch small grants program to help LEDOs better document high-value sites**

**2017 - Expand FDI Attraction Programs**

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<sup>2</sup> APEG’s regional population represents approximately 10% of the state’s total population.

- January - week-long Canada attraction mission to Quebec, Montreal and Toronto
- April - Launch first regional foreign attraction mission independent of JobsOhio
  - Petrochemical and wood industries focus
  - Calls in Switzerland, Germany, Italy confirmed - Norway and eastern Europe possible
- April - Return to Hannover Messe as part of JobsOhio Mission

### **January 2017 - APEG announces formation of LEDO Advisory Board**

- Eastern and southern capacity building groups each chose four peers to represent them
- First meeting May 23 after 5<sup>th</sup> Annual State of the Region Conference cosponsored with Ohio University