

# Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

## 2008 Annual Report



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## Message from the Chairman

First of all, thanks go out to all 12 of our member counties for their continued dedication to making the OVRDC region such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

2008 proved to be a year of successes and challenges for all of us. With revenues decreasing and unemployment increasing we in the OVRDC family rolled up our sleeves and got to work. As our Annual Report reflects there were many successes in securing funding for projects in our counties that both retained and created jobs in our region. Working with our local, state, and federal partners enabled our counties to create the environment that is ripe for job creation/retention and strengthens our community and economy.

OVRDC remains steadfast in its dedication to and partnership with all 12 of our member counties and on behalf of the Executive Committee we want to thank you personally for your continued commitment to enabling the best local development district in the nation to be even better! God bless!!



Bob Proud  
OVRDC Chairman,  
Clermont County Commissioner

## Message from the Executive Director



John W. Hemmings III  
OVRDC Executive Director

*Change:* a word that was heard in abundance in 2008. And change certainly did occur this past year. The citizens of the United States elected Barack Obama as its first African-American president, a historic event. Several key U.S. industries, including banking, housing, and automotive, began to suffer from the significant economic downturn that occurred. Three new counties were added to the Appalachia region of Ohio.

Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission experienced its own change as well when Jeff Spencer retired as its Executive Director on July 31, 2008 after 30 years of service to OVRDC. A "Thank You" goes out to Jeff for all his years of service to the region.

Amid all this change, one thing has remained constant; the commitment of OVRDC to the region it serves. During 2008, OVRDC provided technical and financial assistance to 41 economic and community development projects in our region with a combined total project cost of \$37,333,729. One measure of success as a result of our assistance has been the creation of 351 jobs and the retention of 457 jobs. OVRDC accomplished these measures with \$480,680, representing a return on investment of \$77.67 (total project cost) for every \$1 spent (OVRDC administration).

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2008 and have developed this Annual Report to further share them with you. However, we are well aware that none of this would be possible without the support of our member counties, our membership, our federal and state partners, and other key partners in the region. Thank you and OVRDC looks forward to continuing our efforts to improve the economic vitality of southern Ohio in 2009!





DHL Airpark in Wilmington, Ohio

## **Economic Recovery Efforts Begin**

On May 28, 2008, Deutsche Post World Net, the parent company of DHL announced that it was transferring its domestic air shipping delivery services to UPS, eventually leading to the closure of DHL Airpark in Wilmington. The DHL pullout will result in the direct loss of 8,200 area jobs, with nearly 2,000 more indirect job losses. This level of employment loss will have an adverse economic impact on the City of Wilmington, Clinton County, and many of OVRDC's member counties.

Given the impact of this closure on the region, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) pursued and secured a \$150,000 U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to fund the position of an Economic Recovery Coordinator. This coordinator will assist state and local officials in the development and implementation of a strategic plan for economic recovery for the three most impacted counties from the DHL Airpark closure (Clinton, Fayette, and Highland).

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC), at the recommendation of its Tri-County Economic Recovery Strategy Advisory Committee, selected Rafeal L. Underwood, Sr. as the Economic Recovery Coordinator. Mr. Underwood began his duties on January 8, 2009.



Rafeal L. Underwood, Sr.  
Economic Recovery Coordinator

**FACT: The Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission serves 12 counties that account for over 5,988 square miles of land in Ohio. According to the 2000 Census, the total population of the OVRDC region is 635,970 and 2007 estimates indicate the population has grown to 655,977.**

## Appalachian Regional Commission

During Fiscal Year 2008, the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission provided technical assistance to public and private non-profit organizations resulting in the following outcomes: 285 jobs created, 424 jobs retained, 578 households served with water and/or sewer, 30 people trained in nursing to enter the workforce, and 1,386 students served with technological opportunities to increase their educational attainment and achievement. The following projects helped achieve those outcomes.

Project Title	ARC Funds	Leveraged Funds
OVRDC ARC/RLF Recapitalization (Multi-County)	\$165,000	\$165,000
SOMC Cardiac Surgery Center (Scioto)	\$134,095	\$140,190
Kanuaga/Addison Sanitary Sewer Project (Gallia)	\$250,000	\$4,950,000
Eagle Creek Sewer Line Extension (Brown)	\$250,000	\$351,500
City of Hillsboro Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Replacement (Highland)	\$250,000	\$1,507,809
Brown County General Hospital Women's Health Wellness Program (Brown)	\$250,000	\$250,000
OU Chillicothe Learning Commons/Student Services Center (Ross)	\$142,691	\$224,359
Pike County Sewer Project (Pike)	\$250,000	\$363,600
Ponetown Road Waterline Extension (Vinton)	\$200,000	\$50,000
Strengthening Appalachia's Farmers' Markets (all 29 Appalachian Counties)	\$75,000	\$75,157
Riffle Machine Sewer Project (Ross)	\$75,000	\$91,500
Adena Health System Educational Human Patient Simulators (Ross)	\$250,000	\$1,035,975
Infra-Metals (Scioto)	\$250,000	\$640,000
Haverhill Industrial Park Rail Improvements (Lawrence)	\$120,000	\$708,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,661,786</b>	<b>\$10,553,090</b>

## Connecting Appalachia Initiative

In December 2008, OVRDC began attending regional meetings to discuss the possibility of a 29-county Appalachia Ohio broadband initiative to get broadband access to most areas of Appalachia Ohio. This project has been spearheaded by Congressman Zack Space (18<sup>th</sup> Ohio District), the Southern Ohio Health Care Network (SOHCN), and Reid Consulting Group LLC. The three Ohio Local Development Districts (Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, and the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association) were asked to join early in the project's development to provide regional support.

## **Adena Health Systems Primary Care Expansion-Oak Hill (Jackson County)**

A recent success story that has had a great impact on a small community in the OVRDC region was the Adena Oak Hill Health Center project. In 2008, OVRDC assisted Adena Health Systems with applying for and receiving a \$42,500 grant from the Governor's Office of Appalachia for the purchase of equipment at its new Oak Hill Health Center, which will be located at the IronOak Center, the former Davis Home in Oak Hill. Patrick and Melissa Ball own the IronOaks Center and are glad to have Adena as their first tenant at the facility.

Kurtis Strickland of the Oak Hill Chamber of Commerce said, "Even during the tough economic times, Oak Hill is holding its own. We look forward to having Adena here in the Oak Hill community". The Village of Oak Hill was home to Oak Hill Community Medical Center for many years until it closed in 2000 leaving the community without any local primary care facility. "The opening of this primary care facility will help improve the quality of life in this area," stated Fred Deel, Director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia.

Adena Health Systems held its ribbon cutting ceremony on January 21, 2009 to officially mark the beginning of a new healthcare provider for the people in and around Oak Hill. At that ribbon cutting ceremony, Adena staff spoke about the importance of having a strong foundation, not only when physically building a structure, but also when forming relationships and businesses in a small community. Three full-time jobs have been created as a result of this project and hundreds of local citizens in the southern Jackson County, northern Lawrence County, and western Gallia County area will be served with primary healthcare.



Pictured above participating in the official Ribbon Cutting ceremony on January 21, 2009 at Adena Health Center-Oak Hill are (from left to right) Greg Ervin, Jackson County Health Commissioner; Mark Shuter, President & CEO of Adena Health System; Christi Kiser, Office Assistant; Dr. Jill Neff, Pediatrician; Alicia Kammler, Nurse Practitioner; Pat Ball, co-owner of the IronOak Center; Trish Reno, Medical Assistant; Tom Walton, Jackson County Commissioner; Jim Driggs, Sunrush Construction Representative; and Ronda Kinnamon, Regional Director for the Southern Ohio Office of Governor Ted Strickland.

## **District 15 Ohio Public Works Commission**

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) was created to assist in financing local public infrastructure improvements for roads, bridges, culverts, water supply systems, wastewater systems, storm water collection systems, and solid waste disposal facilities. Since the creation of both the State Capital Improvement Program (District Fund) and the Local Transportation Program (LTIP), District 15 of OPWC has been successful in securing funds for greatly needed infrastructure projects in Adams, Brown, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton counties. The list of projects below received notice of funding in 2008 as a part of Round 22 of the program:

### **District Fund - \$5,089,660**

Emergency Power for Source Water – Scioto County Regional Water  
County/Township Joint Project – Jackson County  
Beechgrove Widening and Resurfacing Project – Vinton County  
Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Replacement – City of Hillsboro  
Township Restructuring I – Brown County  
Lakeside WWTP Repair/Replacement – Highland County  
WWTP Renovations – Village of Piketon  
Yeoman Road Improvement Project – Fayette County  
North Ironton Sewer Separation Phase I – City of Ironton  
School Access and Sewage Project – Adams County  
Kanauga/Addison Sanitary Sewer – Gallia County  
County Sanitary Sewer Improvements – Scioto County

### **LTIP Fund - \$2,421,652**

Hamer Road Bridge Replacement – Brown County  
County/Township Joint Project – Ross County  
Joint Resurfacing Project – Lawrence County  
Henley Deemer Road Bridge Replacement – Scioto County  
Street Improvement Project – City of Chillicothe  
Dever Road Bridge Replacement – Scioto County

### **Small Governments Fund - \$1,129,301**

Village of Peebles WWTP Improvements  
Village of Lynchburg WWTP Improvements  
Village of Ripley Eagle Creek Sewer Extension  
Village of Adelphi WW Facilities Improvements

**FACT: The total land area of the OVRDC region represents 14.6% of the total land area in Ohio. The total population of the OVRDC region represents 5.7% of Ohio's total population based on 2007 estimates.**



## **Township Road 147-C Swamp Road (Highland County)**

Dean Otworth, Highland County Engineer feels fortunate to have the Ohio Public Works Commission funding as he has aggressively sought funding since its inception. As he states “We have been fortunate enough to receive funding for several projects ranging from township road rehabilitation, county road paving, as well as bridge projects.” One such project was T.R. 147-C Swamp Road in Concord Township, Highland County. The project consisted of County and Township forces re-ditching the entire road along with replacing all culverts. Once that work was completed, the County bid out the rehabilitation and paving portion which was made possible by an Ohio Public Works Commission Grant of \$213,600 (\$286,505 total project cost). Mr. Otworth and the Concord Township Trustees are thankful for the OPWC program as funds in Concord Township are limited and this project would have not been possible without the grant.



Workers applying asphalt to Township Road 147-C Swamp Road in Highland County

## **Corridor Study**

During 2008, OVRDC continued work on the Governor’s Office of Appalachia funded State Route 32/US 50/US 35 Corridor Study. The major purpose of this study is to maximize the economic development potential of the SR 32/US 50 and US 35 corridors to create new jobs in southern Ohio. All businesses within a five mile radius of the corridors have been mapped and a business survey completed. Various GIS map layers have also been completed. This corridor plan, when finished, will designate the best possible future industrial and commercial development sites in terms of access and available infrastructure, as well as designate environmentally sensitive areas.

This corridor study covers 12 counties in southern Ohio. It covers the 10 counties that are located on SR 32/US 50 from Clermont to Washington County (Appalachian Highway Corridor D). In addition, it also includes 2 counties on US 35 Ross and Gallia, (Corridor C-1) which intersects SR 32 in Jackson County.

## **Leadership in Entrepreneurial Assistance & Development (LEAD)**

In September 2008, OVRDC was notified that it was the recipient of a Fiscal Year 2008 Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) grant for \$108,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office. The grant is to be used to launch the “Southern Ohio Leadership in Entrepreneurial Assistance & Development Project” or Project LEAD in 2009.

Through Project LEAD, OVRDC will provide training and technical assistance to 14 communities in the economically distressed counties of Gallia, Jackson, Pike, and Vinton. This assistance will focus on the overall goal of building and developing the capacity of key local staff, officials, and communities to provide assistance to new and existing small businesses.



USDA Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt presents OVRDC with \$108,000 check for its Southern Ohio Leadership in Entrepreneurial Assistance & Development Project at its September 2008 Full Commission meeting. Pictured left to right Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman; Cindy Cunningham, Field Representative for Congressman Zack Space; Randy Hunt; John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director and Brandon Kern, Field Representative for Senator George Voinovich.

## **Ohio Valley Hardwood Kiln Feasibility Study**

During 2008, OVRDC continued to undertake a marketing and feasibility study for the hardwood lumber industry in a five county area (Gallia, Jackson, Pike, Scioto and Vinton) in southern Ohio. The primary purpose is to determine the feasibility and market demand for the construction of a hardwood lumber drying kiln, for use by several lumber companies in Southern Ohio. OVRDC staff worked with the University of Rio Grande to develop and administer a questionnaire to lumber companies in Southern Ohio. OVRDC staff also researched the production and sale (domestically and internationally) of green and dry-kiln lumber. Area saw mill operators and owners, who expressed an interest in a cooperative kiln, were interviewed and the results used to determine the best geographic area to focus on for a facility, as well as the specifications of the facility itself. This project is partially funded by a USDA Rural Development Rural Business Opportunity Grant.



## **Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)**

The Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission's (OVRDC's) Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program has operated the last 22 years through two (2) loan fund programs funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Since its inception, a total of 72 loans have been closed, 39 from our ARC RLF program and 33 from our EDA RLF program. The total RLF investment is \$4,715,314; \$2,798,089 from our ARC RLF and \$1,917,225 from our EDA RLF program. The total private and owner equity investments are \$25,677,768 (\$12,841,113 ARC RLF and \$12,836,655 EDA RLF). The impact of jobs created and retained is 3,551 (1,217 ARC RLF and 2,334 EDA RLF). The RLF program is an important additional financing resource for district businesses wishing to start up or expand and create and/or retain full-time equivalent jobs within the OVRDC District.



Owners of Sardinia Feed & Farm Supply LLC (Left to Right: Mark A. Owens and Dr. Heather M. Owens, and David A. Dyer and Christina A. Dyer, John A. Weber and Cynthia J. Weber) at their loan closing in Georgetown.

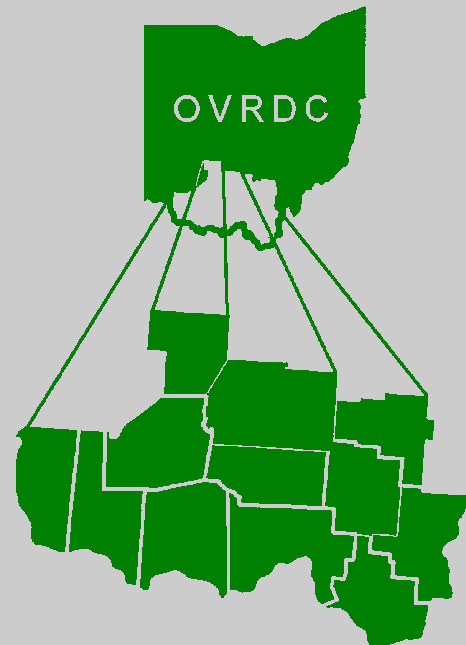
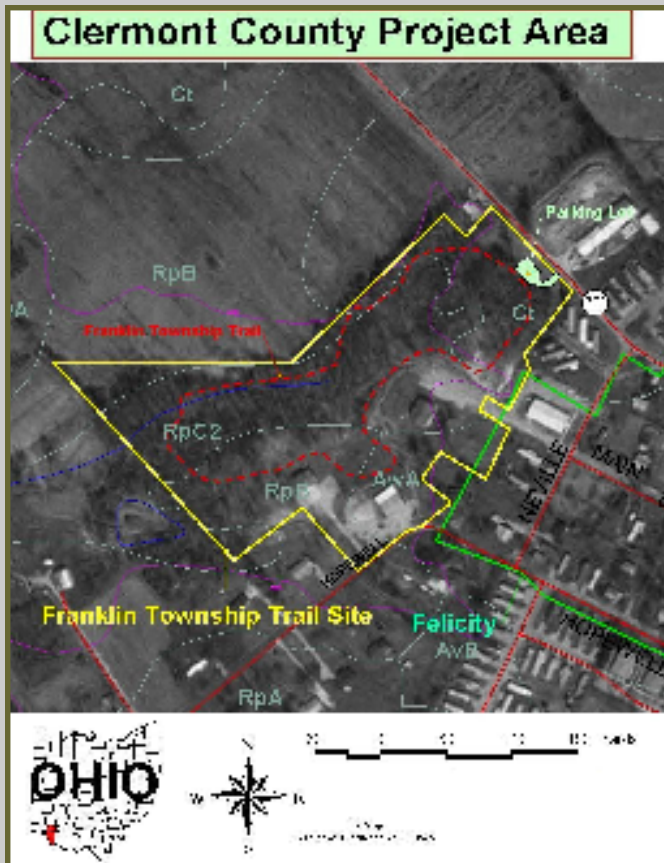
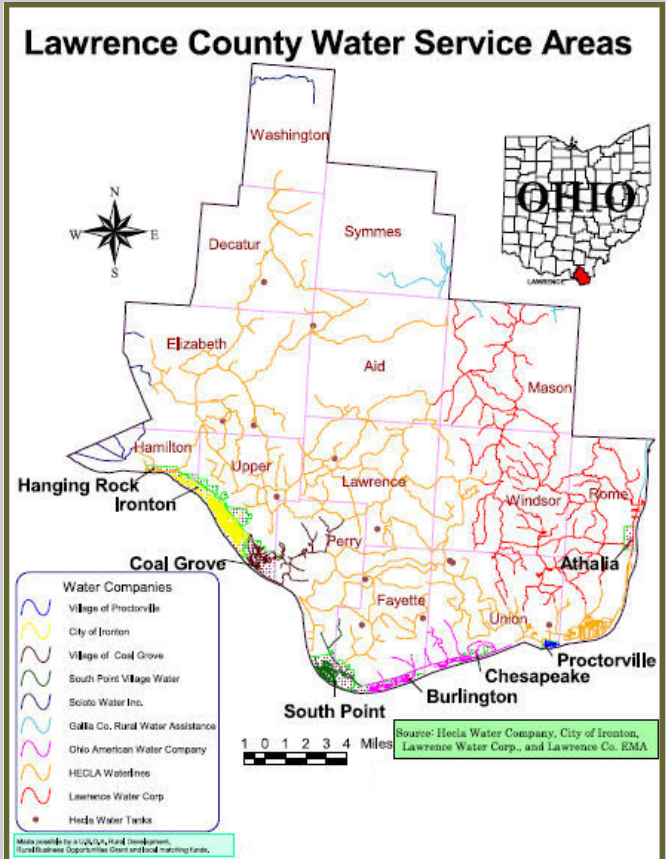
During 2008, OVRDC closed two (2) RLF loans. One of the loans closed in 2008 was to the Sardinia Feed & Farm Supply, LLC a new Ohio limited liability company located in Brown County at 157 Tri-County Highway, Sardinia, Ohio 45171. They are open for business Monday - Friday 8AM-6PM and Saturday from 8AM-3PM call 937.446.2191 to place your order and it will be ready to pick up. "We would not have been able to pursue our dreams without the assistance of OVRDC" said John Weber, President of Sardinia Feed & Farm Supply, LLC.





## OVRDC Continues to Serve Region as Data/GIS Information Center

The Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) is a designated regional affiliate of the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Strategic Research and regularly receives data and statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources. OVRDC also maintains a geographic information system (GIS) and utilizes a global positioning system (GPS) for its planning activities. This GIS/GPS system is used to create an assortment of maps and conduct a variety of analysis projects. For specific data and/or mapping needs, feel free to contact our office for assistance. In 2008, OVRDC assisted with 32 individual data and/or mapping requests from members and constituents. In addition, we offer some general data/statistics and GIS/GPS created maps on our website [www.ovrdc.org](http://www.ovrdc.org).

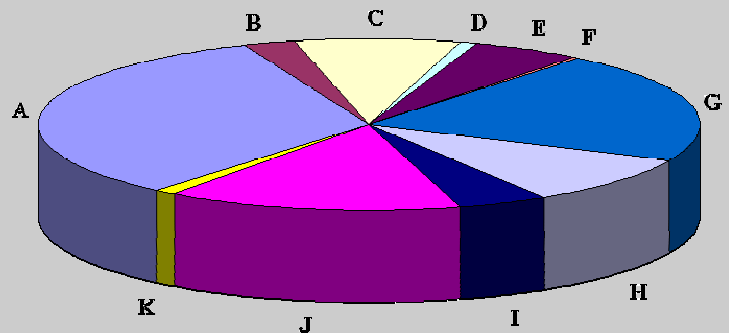




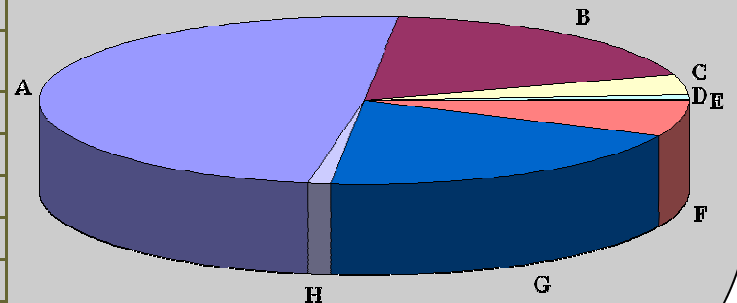
## 2008 BUDGET

The Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission receives financial support from Federal, State and local funding resources which help support our 10 staff members who perform an excellent job for the Commission. Our Federal funding partnerships for 2008 are with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for our Local Development District (LDD) activities; USDA Rural Development (RD) under their Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program for our Ohio Valley Hardwood Kiln Feasibility Study Initiative; U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) under their Planning Assistance program for our Economic Development District (EDD) activities and under their Economic Adjustment Assistance program for our Economic Recovery Efforts; U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development under their Rural Housing & Economic Development (RHED) program for the Planning for Future Fire Protection and Housing Development Initiative; and the University of Vermont & State Agricultural College for our Southern Ohio Alternative Energy Development Initiative funded under a sub-award from ARC for Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education. Our State funding partnerships for 2008 are with the Governor’s Office of Appalachia/Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) for our Appalachian Local Development District activities and our special initiative for the Corridor Study; Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) to support the programs of the District 15 Public Works Integrating Committee, and the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation (SOACDF). The local resources are from 12 member counties which have helped leverage the federal and state resources.

<b><u>FY 2008 Revenues</u></b>		
A	ARC - LDD	\$ 213,000
B	USDA RD	\$ 15,925
C	USDOC EDA EDD	\$ 52,186
D	USDOC EDA EAA ERC	\$ 6,169
E	USDOHUD - RHED	\$ 33,857
F	UVM SARE	\$ 1,426
G	ODOD	\$ 137,647
H	OPWC	\$ 58,200
I	SOACDF	\$ 28,802
J	LOCAL	\$ 93,781
K	IN-KIND	\$ 7,525
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 648,518</b>



<b><u>FY 2008 Expenses</u></b>		
A	Personnel	\$ 317,047
B	Fringe	\$ 119,605
C	Travel	\$ 24,678
D	Supplies	\$ 5,181
E	Contractual	\$ 1,234
F	Other	\$ 46,368
G	Indirect	\$ 126,880
H	In-Kind	\$ 7,525
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 648,518</b>



## 2008: A Review in Pictures



## **2008 PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Elaine Collins, Adams County  
 Kelly Cole, Brown County  
 Andy Kuchta, Clermont County  
 Tim Mitchel, Fayette County  
 Glenn Smith, Gallia County  
 Dan Cowdrey, Highland County  
 Stephanie Filson, Jackson County  
 Ralph Kline, Lawrence County  
 Nathan Davis, Pike County  
 Kelly Shelton, Ross County  
 Steve Carter, Scioto County  
 Ken Reed, Vinton County

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Bob Proud  
 Dale Reynolds  
 Doug Corcoran  
 Eugene Collins  
 Dana Ebert  
 Rick McNelly  
 Roger Rhonemus

## **LOAN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Patty Wilmoth, Adams County  
 Raymond Sininger, Brown County  
 Jim Huebner, Clermont County  
 Bill Cupp, Fayette County  
 Marianne Campbell, Gallia County  
 Dan Cowdrey, Highland County  
 Fred Mavis, Jackson County  
 Ralph Kline, Lawrence County  
 Chris Ervin, Pike County  
 Delbert Bochar, Ross County  
 Lee Powell, Jr., Scioto County  
 Terri Fetherolf, Vinton County

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Bob Proud  
 Dale Reynolds  
 Doug Corcoran

## **2008 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Jim Keels, Chairman  
 Eugene Collins  
 Jack DeWeese  
 Mike Rector  
 Cheryl Thiessen

## **2008 CEDS COMMITTEE**

Adams  
 G.H. "Harty" Wallingford  
 David Hook

Brown  
 Dale Reynolds  
 Ben Houser

Clermont  
 Tim Ross  
 Dave Kennedy

Fayette  
 Joe Denen  
 Doug Marine

Gallia  
 John Cornett/Tracy Stewart-Call

Highland  
 Charles Stevens  
 Sherry Stout

Jackson  
 Jack Webb  
 Alan Stockmeister

Lawrence  
 Jewel Hackwork  
 Carl Darling

Pike  
 Sharon Manson  
 Robert Matthey

Ross  
 Rob Robson  
 Mal Payne

Scioto  
 Gary Coleman  
 Don Hadsell

Vinton  
 Michael Bledsoe  
 Dana Eberts



## **2008 OVRDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Adams County  
Roger Rhonemus  
G.H. "Harty" Wallingford

Brown County  
Dale Reynolds  
Ray Becraft

Clermont County  
Bob Proud  
Tim Ross

Fayette County  
Jack DeWeese  
Fay Williamson

Gallia County  
David Smith  
John Cornett/Tracy Stewart Call

Highland County  
Gary Heaton  
Katy Farber

Jackson County  
Rick McNelly  
Randy Heath

Lawrence County  
Doug Malone  
Bill Dingus

Pike County  
Harry Rider  
Robert Matthey

Ross County  
Doug Corcoran  
Marvin Jones  
Joseph P. Sulzer

Scioto County  
Mike Crabtree  
Don Hadsell  
Jim Kalb  
Eugene Collins Sr.

Vinton County  
Tom Morgan  
Dana Eberts

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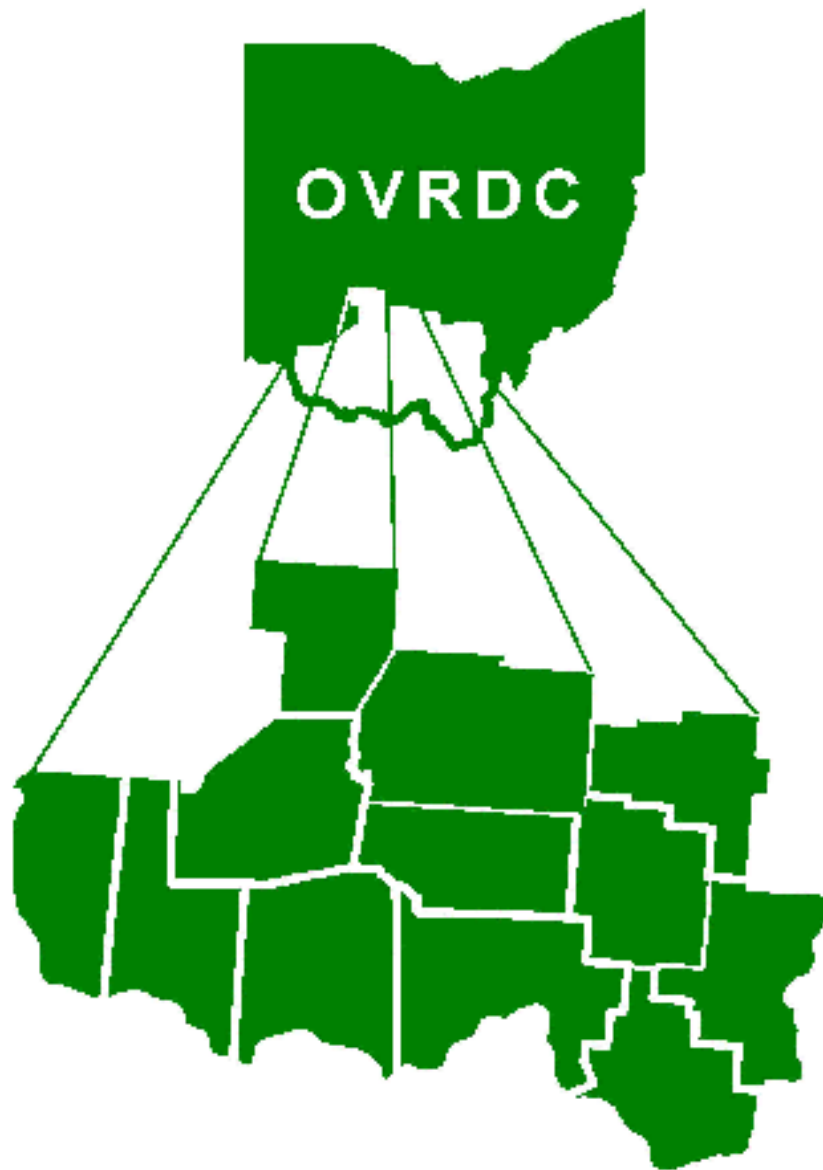
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