



March 30, 2015

Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties



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TCCWMD Board Meeting
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ARC names Bill Atkinson as Program Manager for Western Maryland

Tri County Council for Western Maryland would like to congratulate Bill Atkinson as he takes the role of ARC Program Manager for the Western Maryland Region. Currently, Bill is the Trail Town Program Coordinator for the Maryland Department of Planning and has been with the agency for over 25 years. [The Trail Town Program](#) is an economic development and community revitalization initiative working in "Trail Towns" along the Great Allegheny Passage. The program's purpose is to ensure that trail communities and businesses maximize the economic potential of the trail.

As ARC Program Manager, Bill will be responsible for ARC grants to projects that address one or more of the four goals identified by ARC in its [strategic plan](#) and that can demonstrate measurable results. Typically, ARC project grants are awarded to state and local agencies and governmental entities, local governing boards, and nonprofit organizations.



Almost all program grants originate at the state level. Potential applicants should contact their state [ARC program manager](#) to request a pre-application package. The [local development district](#) serving the county in which the project is located may provide guidance on a project's eligibility for funding and assistance in preparing a grant application.

For more information please contact:

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Feldstein wins Whisman Award

Al Feldstein, retired Appalachian Regional Commission program manager for the state of Maryland, received the 2015 John D. Whisman Vision Award from the Development District Association of Appalachia at its annual conference in Arlington, Va. More than 200 local development officials representing 73 economic planning and development districts in Appalachia attended the conference. The [DDAA](#) presents the award each year to an individual who has provided exemplary service and leadership in Appalachia and demonstrated a commitment to the ideals of state and federal cooperation.

Feldstein, an award-winning historian, served for several decades with the Maryland Department of Planning and has written numerous books and videotapes on Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties. Feldstein was cited for an exemplary career as a "champion for regional planning and development" in which he served as a teacher, government official, author and historian. The award noted that "the strong leadership and vision" he provided to Western Maryland and its three Appalachian counties for more than 40 years "truly demonstrate your steadfast commitment and ongoing support of community development efforts."



Al Feldstein accepts the 2015 John D. Whisman Vision Award from the Development District Association of Appalachia at its annual conference in Arlington, Va. From the left are Linda Janey, assistant secretary, Maryland Department of Planning; Leanne Mazer, executive director, Tri-County Council for Western Maryland; Feldstein; and Appalachian Regional Commission federal co-chairman Earl F. Gohl.

At the conference's award ceremony, Feldstein underscored the role of working together in promoting economic development, noting that "none of us can do anything alone, it takes partnerships."

Established in 1976 by the executive directors of Appalachia's local development districts, the DDAA provides professional and technical training opportunities for local economic development officials and community leaders; directs an annual best-practices conference; and promotes improved communication and quality of service throughout the Appalachian region.



Garrett County Hires New Economic Development Director

County Administrator Monty Pagenhardt has announced that the Board of Garrett County Commissioners has appointed Alexander McCoy as Director of the Department of Economic Development. Mr. McCoy was previously Vice President of Economic Development at the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce in Palatka, Florida and Executive Director of Worth County, Georgia Economic Development Authority. Alex earned both his B.B.A. and M.B.A. from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia and is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) having received this designation from the International Economic Development

Council.



Board of County Commissioners Chairman Paul Edwards stated that "Alex comes to us with a fantastic resume and experience in rural county economic development. He's an engaging guy who will fit in here very well and be an excellent asset to us for years to come. We are excited for him to get started."

"I, along with my family, am very excited by this opportunity" said Mr. McCoy. "Garrett County has been very lucky to have many strong leaders, both past and present, who have worked diligently to create a strong foundation to build from. I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead".

Mr. McCoy will begin his employment with the County on April 6.

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